

THE INDEPENDENT
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100 metre finalists



THE INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 1997

WEATHER: BREEZY with sharp showers

(IR 45p) 40p

IN THE TABLOID

**HOW TO STAY
SANE IN THE
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**



IN THE TABLOID: FILMS

**WHY ROWAN
IS ONLY A
HALF-BAKED BEAN**



INSIDE THE TABLOID

**EDUCATION+
UNIVERSITIES: RAW DEAL
FROM DEARING**

Record scramble for college places

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Up to 80,000 extra students are expected to make last-minute applications for university this year in the rush to secure the last free college places before the introduction of tuition fees.

Predictions of the scale of the scramble for remaining unfilled places came as it emerged that late applications received by the national university admissions body are already up by a third on last year.

The figure provides the first confirmation of early warnings by admissions officials of the likely effect of government plans to make graduates pay a minimum of £3,000 towards the cost of their studies.

Students who had planned to delay a university career were now trying to "get in under the wire", Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), said last night.

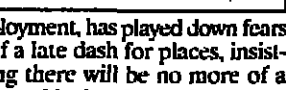
In a separate development, it emerged yesterday that more places in university could be funded out of the social security budget under radical reforms of the welfare system planned by Frank Field, the social security minister.

Mr Field suggested that savings of 10 per cent on the £80bn social security budget could be made by devolving more decision-making over spending to local welfare offices.

Whitehall officials confirmed last night that ministers were looking at ways of providing the unemployed with a route from welfare into work and other opportunities, including universities and further education.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Em-

UCAS LISTINGS
The Independent will be the only newspaper to carry the full official UCAS clearance listings of university places. The first lists appear next Thursday



ployment, has played down fears of a late dash for places, insisting there will be no more of a scramble than in previous years.

Following the publication last month of the Dearing report on the future of higher education, ministers announced moves to scrap maintenance grants and introduce means-tested tuition fees.

The move prompted predictions by UCAS that some of the 19,000 school-leavers who have deferred a university place until 1998 in order to spend a year abroad or at work would scrap their plans and seek a place this September instead.

UCAS is now also bracing itself for a further flood of late applications from students who applied and qualified for university last year but decided not to take up a place.

On the evidence of numbers in previous year who have later changed their minds, up to 23,000 would-be students could join the scramble for places.

As many as 48,000 more could come forward from the pool of 19- and 20-year-olds

who left school without applying to university but have enough qualifications for entry. Tony Higgins, UCAS chief executive, said the total number of extra applicants could climb as high as 80,000.

Candidates applying late for university pass through the clearing system, run by UCAS. The number of places available through clearing will not be known until A-level results are published next week, but last year there were 47,000 out of a total of 295,000 university places.

The number of candidates who apply through the clearing system in a typical year cannot be measured, but it is certain that an extra 80,000 would dramatically increase competition for places.

As the first evidence of this year's rush emerges, admissions officials are already contemplating possible knock-on effects. Fears are being raised that the scramble could lead to lower applications for entry in 1998, particularly in less popular subjects which may have a bumper year this time.

University admissions officers have already begun to report a rise in inquiries about vacancies, and careers services are also fielding high numbers of calls. Parents, fearful of being landed with tuition debts, are making inquiries over places available this year on behalf of their offspring, careers advisers say.

Students who have accepted deferred university places and seek to drop them in favour of entry this autumn are, in theory, opening themselves up to potential legal action from the institution, since they will have broken a contract. In practice, however, it is unlikely that universities will seek redress.

Parched Britain? What a difference a year makes



Washout: Bournemouth's deserted seaford yesterday and (below) teeming a year ago Photograph: Phil Yeomans and Andy Lockyer/Bournemouth News

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

The deluges of early August ruined thousands of holidays, flooded dozens of homes, washed out a major West Country road and drowned a farmer in Ireland. More downpours are forecast today and moaning about the weather has become completely legitimate.

A snaking band of rain about 100 miles wide hung over England, Wales and Ireland yesterday, stretching from the Pas de Calais to Limerick and shifting only slowly. Along its length intense downpours came and went, depositing as much as an entire summer month's worth of precipitation in a single day.

But by yesterday evening very little had landed on Essex and Suffolk Water's terrain, and the company said it had no plans to lift the nation's largest hosepipe and sprinkler ban, covering 1.7 million people.

In the Irish Republic, a 67-year-old farmer found dead in a flooded field was believed to have drowned after abandoning his car in the dark near the Co Clare village of Ballyvaughan and slipping off a wall into water five feet deep.

Thousands of disappointed families abandoned their West Country holidays after three

very wet days. Along motorways and major roads the combination of heavy traffic and dangerous driving conditions slowed the flow to a bumper-to-bumper crawl of cars and caravans. For a time, a 15-mile-long line of traffic on the M5 between Weston-super-Mare and Avonmouth Bridge near Bristol came to a standstill.

All five of the region's counties from Gloucestershire to Cornwall have been deluged, along with south-west Wales, with fire-fighters having to pump out dozens of flooded homes and businesses. The Environment Agency last night issued 13 flood warnings for West Country rivers, and the A39 at Cannington near Bridgwater, Somerset, had its surface scoured off by the rush of floodwater.

Scattered heavy rain also fell in southern England with Crowborough, East Sussex getting 54mm in just three hours yesterday morning - the average for the whole of August.

Rainfall in England and Wales overall was slightly below the long-term average in July, but June was the wettest since 1860. Sporting fixtures, shows and festivals were washed out - and with more heavy rain forecast several big weekend events were in jeopardy.



The downpours originate in a plume of warm, very moist air drifting eastwards from France. As it passes over Britain, localised clumps are forced upwards and then dump their water as they rapidly cool.

"It's a ribbon of warm air with violent updrafts," said an officer in the London Weather Centre.

Five-year-old killed in street shooting

Kate Watson-Smyth

A five-year-old boy was killed and a man - believed to be his father - was seriously injured in a shooting in a busy street in Bolton, Greater Manchester, last night.

Neighbours said the injured man and the boy were walking down Bankfield Street, when a yellow Mini-Metro, pulled up alongside them. Three shots were fired - two of which were said to have hit the boy. Early

reports of the incident were confused, but witnesses spoke of a man wearing a motorcycle helmet running off down a back alley. Police said they could not confirm any details.

The dead boy and the injured man were taken to Bolton General Infirmary where the man was said to be suffering from serious stomach wounds. "We got a call at 5.10pm. Our paramedics arrived on the scene to find that a five-year-old child was dead," an ambulance

service spokeswoman said.

Another spokesperson for the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service, Patrick Gormley, said the shooting took place during the rush hour in front of several witnesses, many of whom rang the emergency services. He said the child died from "massive head injuries".

"We were able to get a male adult to hospital but he does have serious abdominal injuries," Mr Gormley said. "Our main priorities are now

looking after the crew who have witnessed what is a very traumatic incident," he said.

Mary Cooper, a local resident, said she heard the shots and saw the man "hysterical in the middle of the road".

"I went out and put the little boy in the recovery position and waited until the ambulance arrived," she said.

"The boy had been shot twice in the back of the head but I didn't know the man had been shot at first. He was covered in

blood but I thought it was from the little boy. He was in a terrible state."

It is believed the man and child lived in Jauncey Street, a few hundred yards from where the shooting took place.

Dennis Willett, 47, said: "I was in my house watching TV when I heard three very loud bangs. It was the first time I had ever heard a gunshot. It was far louder than a car backfiring."

"I rushed out and saw the father running around. He looked

as if he had been shot in his side.

I saw the little lad lying in the road with a lot of people gathering around him. The police were there within minutes."

No motive for the killing was immediately obvious but crash helmets are sometimes used for disguise by professional underworld assassins.

The Daubhill area, where the shooting took place, is made up of densely built terraced streets on the outskirts of Bolton town centre.

Historic Test innings puts a war on hold

Nirash Eliatambay
Colombo

As Sri Lankan cricketers set a world record for most runs in a Test innings yesterday, soldiers in the war-torn north-east of the country broke off from their 14-year fight against Tamil Tiger guerrillas, to gather around television sets.

Playing in the first Test against India, Sri Lanka sailed past the previous record - England's 903 for 7 declared against

Australia at The Oval in 1938 - when they reached 905 for 4.

"For a few minutes, we almost forgot the war," said Corporal Tissa Kudabandara, speaking on the telephone from the eastern port city of Trincomalee. In the capital, Colombo, Sri Lankans lit crackers and work came to a standstill as people celebrated.

The gloom which set in earlier in the day when the local hero Sanath Jayasuriya fell short of the West Indian Brian

Lara's highest individual score of 375, lifted as Aravinda de Silva hit the boundary to take Sri Lanka past the old record.

"Even when we won the World Cup, we weren't taken seriously by the rest of the cricket world. But now, everyone can see that Sri Lanka Test cricket is for real," said Manoj de Soysa, an accountant, who like many, had stopped working to watch the match on television. Many people came to work early, hoping to catch

Jayasuriya pass Lara's mark at the R. Premadasa Stadium, where entrance was free.

But Jayasuriya, who had only 50 runs to go from his overnight 326, spooned a catch to Sarav Ganguly off the spinner Rajesh Chauhan. "People in my office were sobbing. They were so unhappy that no one was doing any work," said Dilan Ekanayake, a stockbroker.

The veteran batsman Roshan Mahanama had been leg-before the previous ball, after hitting 225

in a partnership of 576, a record for any wicket beating the 467 set by New Zealand's Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones at Wellington against Sri Lanka in 1991.

But de Silva and his captain Arjuna Ranatunga hit 175 runs for the fourth wicket - before Ranatunga departed for 86 - bringing the record within reach. De Silva and the new-comer Mahela Jayawardena coasted to the mark.

The match was drawn. Match report, page 20



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Shares break 5,000
A surge in share prices pushed the FTSE 100 index past the 5,000 barrier yesterday as investors were cheered by favourable company results

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COMPAQ

significant shorts

Unions warn of opposition over 'superteacher' plans

Teachers' leaders yesterday claimed that the Government risked losing the support of the profession if it boosted the pay of a new grade of "superteachers" but failed to raise teaching salaries across the board. Their criticism, the most forceful yet directed at the Labour government by the profession, came as David Blunkett, secretary of State for Education and Employment, unveiled the first details of a new rank of "advanced skills teacher".

In guidance to the School Teachers' Review Body, which makes recommendations on classroom pay, Mr Blunkett called for advice on how the "superteachers" might be rewarded.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers warned that the majority of teachers would oppose plans which would see "most held back so that a few get a fair deal". Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, said he was disappointed "that a government with education at the heart of its policies fails to recognise the need to lift the salary levels of the entire profession."

Lucy Ward

Fifth soldier charged over attack

A fifth British soldier was last night charged in connection with a savage attack on two Britons on holiday in Cyprus, police said. Four soldiers have already been bailed to reappear before a Cyprus court today on assault charges after the incident outside a nightclub in the resort of Ayia Napa at the weekend.

After one of the victims, Barry Ford, 23, took part in an identity parade yesterday afternoon, a fifth soldier from the King's Regiment - Stuart Spencer, 20 - was also charged with causing grievous bodily harm. Mr Ford, from London, was left with cracked ribs, a broken wrist and 15 stitches to a face wound. His friend, Shane Bell, 23, also from London, had a metal plate inserted in his jaw.

Air show guards win race bias case

Two black security guards who were dismissed from the Farnborough Air Show after being told that "their faces did not fit" have won compensation for racial discrimination, Richard Francis and I Okoh were only allowed to work for one day for Reliance Security Services at last year's show for the aerospace industry. An industrial tribunal in Southampton awarded Mr Francis £1,315 in compensation and Mr Okoh won £1,420.

Jason Bennetto

Disney casts cloud over Baddiel film



David Baddiel, the *Fantasy Football* host, is heading for a clash with film giant Disney over casting for his major new movie. Baddiel (left) has been paid a substantial undisclosed fee to write *Forsaking All Others* for millionaire *Home Alone* producer John Hughes.

The comedian wants an unknown actor to star in the picture but says Disney, the backers, want to cast a star. Baddiel, 33, who has completed the romantic comedy script, said: "I think when you get into stars being in a film you get into a whole load of baggage because they say 'I can't do this because it conflicts with my image'. We'll have to see."

Haemophilic boy's drugs victory

A 14-year-old haemophilic boy has won his fight to receive treatment that could save his life. Jack Quarmby, from Mossley, Greater Manchester, was told in January that he would have to use a blood clotting agent which ran the risk of infecting him with potentially fatal viruses. He had been using the artificially-made anti-clotting agent Factor VIII, which is safer than Factor VIII derived from human blood because it carries no virus.

But in January West Pennine Health Authority said it could no longer afford to pay for the artificial drugs because it is one-and-a-half times more expensive. This week the health authority decided to restore supplies of the genetically-engineered drug, after a campaign by his family, its lawyers and the Haemophilia Society.

Detective made sex phone calls

A detective, who posed as a BT engineer in an elaborate ruse to bombard women with hundreds of sexually explicit phone calls, was placed on probation yesterday. Magistrates at Basingstoke, Hampshire, were told that Detective Constable Ian Thomas, 37, would choose to serve 30 months in prison or on probation. He made more than 50 calls from the police station where he worked. Thomas, of Farnborough, Hampshire, who has since resigned from the Hampshire Constabulary, admitted seven specimen charges of improper use of a telecommunications system. As well as being put on probation for two years, with an order that he undergo treatment on a sex offender's programme, he was also ordered to pay each of his six victims £75 compensation.

Sox springs back after keyhole op

Sox the sick springer spaniel was back on her feet minutes after undergoing pioneering keyhole surgery yesterday. The pet was playing and wagging her tail after coming around from the two-and-a-half hour diagnostic operation. But her owners Frank Ainsworth, a veterinary surgeon, and his wife Julie, from Carlton Colville, Suffolk, have been warned the prognosis is not good for several tumours were found on the 10-year-old animal's lungs.

people



Jana Bennett: Only a handful of women have reached such an influential position in TV

Top BBC job for woman who turned science into success

Jana Bennett, the BBC's head of science, has been appointed as its new Director of Production, making her one of the most powerful women in television. Ms Bennett will oversee the "biggest radio and television programme-making centre in Europe", the corporation announced yesterday.

She has taken over from Alan Yentob, who becomes BBC Director of Television, but the post has been re-named and redrawn to include more business responsibilities, alongside creative and editorial ones.

Ms Bennett, trained with a son and a daughter, has been the most senior programme-maker at the BBC since 1994, as well as the Prib Italia this year. Since last September she has overseen the BBC's network radio and World Service science units. In her new job, she will develop new BBC services, including digital channels and on-line broadcasting.

Chosen by the BBC Board of Governors, Ms Bennett also becomes deputy chief executive of production and a member of the BBC Board of Management. American-born Ms Bennett was educated at Bognor Comprehensive in West Sussex, Oxford University and the London School of Economics. She joined the BBC as a news trainee in 1979 and worked in local, regional and national newsrooms, on *Nationwide*, *The Money Programme*, *Newsnight* and *Panorama*, going on to science and the editorship of *Horizon*.

BBC Production chief executive Ronald Neil said: "Jana shone through amongst an impressive list of candidates. She will ensure that BBC Production is a place where the strongest ideas and the best programme-making talent are encouraged, developed and valued."

Ms Bennett said: "The programme-making talent within the BBC is the future of the BBC. I care passionately about the programmes we make and the people who make them."

Mr Yentob said: "I am a great admirer of Jana Bennett. This is a terrific appointment for BBC Production and for our radio and television networks."

Mr Yentob took the job of director of television, overseeing BBC1, BBC2 and forthcoming digital services, when Michael Jackson left earlier this year to become head of Channel 4. Mr Jackson's departure also left a vacancy for Controller of BBC1, which is expected to be filled later this month.

Kate Watson-Smyth

No court martial for major who stirred class row

The Army yesterday refused to rule out a court martial for a major after he published a radical pamphlet accusing the force of perpetuating an outdated class system and criticising its rank structure.

But Army sources said yesterday that a court martial Major Eric Joyce (right) for speaking out would be set on by the media, and therefore a prosecution was unlikely. Furthermore, many people in the Army privately agree with what Major Joyce has been saying.

With a strategic defence review and the new government's policy of unprecedented openness on defence matters in the headlines, the Joyce case could become a political hot potato on the lines of the Dreyfus affair in France 100 years ago.

On Tuesday, the military police visited Major Joyce at his office at the Army Training and Recruitment Agency at Upavon, Wiltshire. They will prepare a report to be submitted to his commanding officer.

"We're not prepared to discuss his allegations," an Army spokesman said yesterday. "It's not an automatic court martial, we are keeping all options open."

Major Joyce's Fabian Society pamphlet, *Arms and the Man - Renewing the Armed Services*, published on Monday, recommended independent representation for service personnel, action on racial inequality, the end of the current



recruiting divide between officers and other ranks and an end to the forces' ban on gays.

Most controversial was Major Joyce's allegation that half the Army's officers - and all the senior ones - were from among the 7 percent of the population who went to private schools. A very small number of soldiers are selected for officer training, but, Major Joyce points out, the age limit is 21, while direct entry officers (80 percent of whom are graduates) are accepted up to the age of 25.

With large numbers of sergeants and sergeant majors now taking degrees, the logic behind this distinction has now broken down.

Christopher Bellamy

Ruby loses her sparkle for Corsa

The arch comedienne Ruby Wax has reached the end of the road with Vauxhall.

For the last two years the wise-cracking American, known for her crude on-camera behaviour and trademark red lipstick, has played a deliberately exaggerated version of herself in the Vauxhall Corsa advertisements.

But Wax's association with the car has now "run its course" and a "fresh approach" is required, according to the car firm.

David Raesside, spokesman for Vauxhall, said: "We are repositioning the car and the time has come for a fresh approach. Ruby has fulfilled her contract. She has been fantastic, but however successful campaigns are, we must move on in this business."

Wax, the master of the irreverent interview, has featured in six campaigns for the Corsa - Britain's best-selling car last month.

When the car was launched in 1993, supermodels were used, and the campaign sparked complaints about exploitation of women.

A series of new adverts will be launched in the autumn.

Mr Raesside said: "We will be launching a new ad campaign which will be very interesting but it must be kept under wraps until then."

"We have to keep the powder dry until it's launched to get as much impact as possible."

Alexandra Williams

British aid worker is murdered in Hungary

A British man was murdered and his wife seriously injured when they were attacked by robbers during a trip to Eastern Europe to deliver aid supplies. Michael Trevor Pollard, 62, from Shipley, West Yorkshire, and his wife, Soralea, were set upon after stopping their car in a lay-by in a Hungarian town.

The attackers, who confessed to carrying out the assault after being arrested, stole about £50 from the couple, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

Mr Pollard died as a result of his injuries, and his wife, 55, suffered a broken jaw and nose as well as facial and chest injuries. She was in intensive care last night and is due to be operated on today.

A local report said the couple's car broke down in the town of Nyiregyhaza, about 150 miles north-east of Budapest, while they were returning to Romania.

Mr Pollard, who was a pastor at the Emmanuel

Evangelical Church in Baildon, West Yorkshire, and his wife were taking privately collected aid supplies to Christians in eastern Europe, as they have been doing for the last 19 years, when they were attacked. They were about 10 days into their four-week trip.

The couple's daughters, Rebecca, 24, and Tamar, 20, and their son Andrew, 18, were said to be "devastated" by the news and too upset to comment.

The couple were in Prague, in the former Czechoslovakia, in 1968 when the Russian tanks rolled in and were so moved by the experience they had made annual visits to various eastern European countries ever since.

A neighbour of the Pollards, Angela Vicarman, said: "They were a lovely couple, they were married for about 30 years. I don't know how she will face the future without Michael, they were so close."

Kate Watson-Smyth

briefing

CRIME

Justice system allows abusers to go unpunished

Criminals are getting away with abusing people with learning difficulties because the justice system does not take them seriously, campaigners warned yesterday.

Nearly two thirds of social workers know a person with learning difficulties who has been a victim of crime, but, of the cases that reached court, only 15 per cent resulted in a conviction. A report by *Community Care* magazine said that many cases were dropped because the courts and the criminal justice system do not consider them as "real" crimes or the victims as "good witnesses".

The survey, which questioned 1,000 social workers, also revealed that the majority knew a person with learning difficulties who had been abused by a someone from within an establishment. Of these cases, nearly 20 per cent were not referred for investigation.

The report coincides with the launch of the magazine's campaign - *A Fair Dealing: Justice for People with Learning Difficulties* - which calls for the Government to issue clear guidelines about how the police, Crown Prosecution Service, lawyers and judges, should deal with these cases.

Glenda Cooper

NATURE

Is it a bird? No, it's a weasel

Weasels are the world's animal high-jump champions, say scientists. A "predator Olympics" arranged by animal behaviour scientists at Victoria University, New Zealand, found that stoats can jump to heights of 1.9m (6ft 3in) - outleaping ships' rats, cats and possums.

The intention of the experiment was to decide how high and wide a barrier fence to protect a planned native bird sanctuary in the city should be. The experiments involved a group of local would-be predators in what the scientists were happy to call "ground-breaking" research.

Ships' rats managed 1.7m, feral cats 1.5m and - just missing the bronze - wild possums 1.2m.

Eliminated early on were ferrets and Norway rats, defeated at 0.5m, while standard weasels and mice managed only 0.33m.

However, getting in to a sanctuary doesn't necessarily require jumping. Another contest pitted various tunnelling animals against each other - a challenge won by a Norway rat, which dug 0.6m along in the time limit.

Charles Arthur



PRISONS

Pregnant women suffer behind bars

The imprisonment of pregnant women should be outlawed, a penal affairs group claims today, in a report which condemns the conditions of inmates.

A survey by the Howard League of Britain's 15 designated women's prisons says found there were 60 pregnant inmates, approximately 3 per cent of the total female jail population.

The League is calling for a drastic improvement in conditions for these women, to ensure they receive a similar quality of care as those in the community. Ultimately, the group is seeking a total ban on prison sentences for pregnant female offenders.

It is claimed that standards of care for pregnant women while incarcerated are inadequate, with a severe shortage of places in mother and baby units (MBUs).

Expectant mothers do not necessarily have access to special foodstuffs, although extra milk is provided. While pregnant prisoners are not expected to undertake heavy duties, there is little provision for exercise.

As a result of the reported poor conditions, some female prisoners are failing to reveal their pregnancies. One woman in Risley Prison recently gave birth in her cell, after successfully hiding her pregnancy for more than three months.

Louise Hancock

MOTORING

Garages that fail the MoT test

Many garages are failing to spot faults on defective cars, leaving drivers at the wheel of potentially dangerous vehicles, according to under-cover tests carried out by the Consumers' Association.

Only two of the 36 MoT test results assessed by *Which?*, the CA's magazine, and experts from the Department of Transport's Vehicle Inspectorate, were judged to be correctly carried out.

The investigation revealed that 75 per cent of all the tests were either "poor" or "very poor", in the experts' view.

Furthermore, half the garages failed cars that should have been passed. Among the worst culprits was Quicks in Leamington Spa, a Rover franchised dealer, which missed the suspension problem on a Rover 218, but failed other suspension components that did not need replacing. The dealership added to its mistakes by quoting £460 to sort out the car.

"Too many MoT testers are missing failure points they should spot," said Andrew McIlwraith, senior editor with *Which?*. "This is despite a Government review of the MOT after our last inspection in 1993 revealed poor standards, overall standards are still unacceptable low."

Randeep Ramesh

HEALTH

Sharing a bowl can cause ulcers

Eating meals with chopsticks from one large bowl, as many Chinese families do, can spread the bacteria that cause 90 per cent of stomach ulcers, according to new research from Australia.

A study of 328 Chinese men and women born outside Australia found that 60 per cent of them had the *Helicobacter pylori* bacterium - twice the infection rate for white Australians.

Dr Tomy Chow, of Monash Medical Center in Melbourne, said the bacteria appear to be spread when people eat from a shared bowl of food, spreading saliva from their mouths to the food and each other with chopsticks. "There is a very strong association there," he said.

H pylori is a spiral-shaped bacterium that burrows into the lining of the intestinal tract. The discovery in 1994 that these bacteria cause stomach ulcers was one of the most amazing medical breakthroughs of this generation. It overturned decades of conventional medical teaching that ulcers were caused by stress, coffee, spicy food or too much stomach acid.

Charles Arthur

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The glory game loses its glitter

The soaring wages bill means many of England's best-known football clubs face going under along with those in the lower divisions

Andrew Yates

Spiralling wage costs and transfer fees threaten to plunge the football industry into a financial crisis. Many clubs, possibly including some in the Premier League, face going under, according to the latest annual review of football finance by the Deloitte & Touche accountancy firm.

Published just three days after the new season's curtain-raising Charity Shield match at Wembley, the report warns that there is a widening gulf between the top football clubs and the also-rans. Clubs in lower divisions will find it increasingly difficult to survive as the Premier League continues to grow richer.

Gerry Bowen, Deloitte's editor of the report, fears that players' wages could spiral out of control. "Rising wages are football's biggest problem. Only the Premier League has the revenue to support the wages it pays," he said yesterday.

The English game lost a staggering £98m last season, a sevenfold increase on the previous year. Almost three-quarters of Premier League clubs ended up in the red and Newcastle United lost £23.6m after splashing out on big-name signings such as striker Alan Shearer, who became the world's most expensive player with a price tag of £15m. Manchester United, which is the UK's most profitable club, Premier League teams lost an average of £4m each.

Players' salaries are now increasing faster than ever before. Italian international Fabrizio Ravanelli is believed to be the highest-paid footballer in the country, picking up £42,000 a week from Middlesbrough, who were relegated from the Premier League last season.

Dozens of other star names are negotiating huge pay rises, putting further pressure on already overstretched finances. Dennis Bergkamp at Arsenal, for example, is thought to have just secured a £1m pay deal for the coming season

and wages of more than £20,000 a week are becoming commonplace. Deloitte estimates Premier League wages leapt by around 25 per cent last season, having more than doubled in the last four years.

Compared with modern-day players, footballing legends such as Sir Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney, received a maximum wage of £20 a week, equivalent to less than £245 in today's money which, itself, is even less than the current UK average wage of £346 a week.

Transfer fees have also spiralled and £93m of cash was spent on foreign players in the 1995-6 season on the likes of Chelsea imports Gianluca Vialli and Frank Leboeuf.

The disparity in television revenues between Premier League and the lower divisions is responsible for widening the gulf between the haves and the have-nots of football. This season, Premier League clubs can expect to receive an average of £4m from TV deals, thanks to a new satellite contract with BSkyB. But the best-paid First Division club will receive just £1m. The report says many clubs are spending large sums of money

in a gamble to get promoted.

"Some clubs will almost certainly become seriously unbalanced by trying to make it to the Premier League," said Nigel Hawkins, a football analyst with Yamaichi Bank.

The number of people arrested at football matches has fallen by more than a third during the past four years, figures released yesterday reveal.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service said the drop came despite the highest attendance figures for five years. However, the total increased by 62 in the past year to 4,400 for 1996/7, but that was against a rise of 437,000 in the number of spectators.

Business Comment, page 17



Stanley Matthews
England's Wizard of the Wing: Earned £20 a week

Smaller clubs branch out

Michael Streeter

Football may be coming home, but is it going bust en route? Down at Dean Court, home of second division AFC Bournemouth, they know all about financial crises.

In January the Dorset club, founded in 1899, was put into receivership, owing £4.8m, with little chance of ever paying the money back.

Since then, however, a mini-revolution has taken place which may have implications for those Football League clubs which suffer from the "wealth gap" with the big boys in the Premier fast lane.

Bournemouth has rescheduled its debts, sold a player for £800,000 and worked out a viable plan for the

future; it has even had enough to buy a player from Inter Milan this week.

Its new chairman, Trevor Watkins, a local solicitor and fan, believes his club has seen the future. "The way ahead is to diversify into other areas, so that financially you do not just rely on football. Conference facilities, cinemas, you name it. This is a mini-revolution," he said.

However, despite rising gates and more money from television deals, the soaring costs of wage bills is threatening to cripple many clubs. In the last five years the salaries of players in the three lower divisions have risen by 63 per cent.

Mr Watkins said Bournemouth had been considering signing a centre forward who ended up moving to a lower division side because he could

earn more money. He recommends a solution which exists with American football sides in the United States, where teams are capped on the total bill for their salaries. "If you had a cap say of £750,000 a year you would soon see who the best managers were," he said.

The idea seems unlikely to catch on where players and agents are constantly trying to make a fast buck; the very best such as Ravanelli can earn up to £40,000 a week.

Chris Hull, spokesman for the Football League, which represents the lower divisions, says that if the issue of players' salaries is not addressed, "there will be serious problems. There are many very generous benefactors who help out football clubs but not even they can compete with the escalating costs."

The top earners

Fabrizio Ravanelli Middlesbrough £42,000 (Weekly pay)	Gianfranco Zola Chelsea £25,000
Alan Shearer Newcastle United £23,462	Steven Elliott Everton £25,000
Paul Merson Middlesbrough £25,000	Les Ferdinand Spurs £20,000
Dennis Bergkamp Arsenal £22,000	Marc Overmars Arsenal £20,000
	Roy Keane Manchester United £15,000

Clubs where wages exceed turnover	Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Norwich City	108%	Notts County	121%
Portsmouth	108%	Hull City	110%
Reading	108%	Oxford Utd	109%
Ipswich Town	104%	Brighton	101%
Millwall	102%		
			Wigan Athletic 223%
			Lincoln City 147%
			Cambridge Utd 137%
			Colchester Utd 131%
			Scarborough 103%

That's death for 'This Life' as BBC dithers over show

David Lister

It has been likened to a British version of *Friends*. In fact it is more like *Friends* on drugs with hormones out of control.

This Life, the television cult sensation of the year will leave its audience of 4.2 million on tenterhooks tonight, not knowing whether the ending of the second series will be the final curtain for the saga of twentysomething life.

The programme, which focuses on a household of up-to-date, sexually free but fraught housemates, has leapt to the top of the BBC2 ratings. With its mixture of raucy dialogue, drink, drugs, sex and career problems, confused men, feisty women and erratic slice-of-life camera-work to boot, it has won a devoted audience.

More to the point for BBC2 controller Mark Thompson, private figures being studied at BBC2 show that the audience profile centres on twentysomethings, which the station has been desperate to attract. *This Life* was commissioned by Michael Jackson, now head of Channel 4, when he was BBC2 controller with the express purpose of attracting a younger audience to BBC2.

But with no third series yet commissioned there has been speculation that the BBC might be carelessly about to lose one of its surprise hits.

BBC sources deny that the delay in announcing a third series has resulted in the loss of the stars. A number of the actors and actresses have taken on other work, but none has ruled out returning for a third series.

Mr Thompson, who returns from holiday this weekend, has been in daily touch with his staff, and is determined that BBC2 will screen a third series. First, however he has to see scripts and storylines from World Productions, the independent production company that makes the programme. A spokeswoman there refused to comment, but it is understood that a new series is being prepared.

The *entertainment* glee at World Productions is *This Life* executive producer, Tony Garnett. His pedigree goes back to Sixties classics *Julian Clary* and *Up the Junction*. It may be something of an irony that the series hailed as accurately portraying twentysomething life has at its apex a 61-year-old.

A BBC spokeswoman said yesterday: "Mark Thompson is

committed to the show. He has asked World Productions to come up with storylines and we're waiting to see them. We are very anxious to have a third series."

However, that option could yet be denied them by Mr Garnett and his team. Tonight will reveal whether Miles, the barman, marries his fiancée Francesca or goes off with Anna, the sexy, sardonic cocaine snorting Scot. If he marries, he will leave the shared house and possibly the series.

The writers could decide that the south London house, not its occupants, is the link between the different series, and it might benefit from new tenants.

The producers promise some hints tonight. "Keep your eyes peeled on the closing credits," said one source.

Nomad on course for final frontier

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

After the Moon Buggy and the Sojourner Rover, meet Nomad - the first of the next generation of extraterrestrial wanderers. The four-wheeled machine pictured here has recently completed a 133-mile six-week trek across the rugged Atacama desert of Chile, as preparation for field trips to Antarctica, the Moon and eventually Mars.

"It's a quantum leap for planetary robotics culture - the historical standard of travel was measured in yards, not miles," said William Whitaker of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, who led the team of



Nomad: Out of this world

scientists and engineers testing Nomad.

The vehicle is about the size of a small car, weighing 727 kilograms (1,600lbs) - substantially more than the Sojourner Rover now carrying out exper-

iments as part of the *Pathfinder* mission on Mars, which weighs only about 14kg. It has four-wheel drive and all four aluminium wheels are steerable, while the chassis can expand to improve its stability in difficult terrain. It travels at about 1 mph. In remote surroundings, it would either be powered by solar cells or fossil fuel. It cost about £1m to develop.

Nomad is designed with twin colour cameras, allowing high-resolution control of it by human observers. It also ran on its own for 12 miles, performing a geological examination of a rock outcrop - which turned out to be an undiscovered deposit from the Jurassic period.

"Nomad met or exceeded all of our objectives for this project," said Dave Lavery, telecommunications project manager at the US space agency Nasa.

"During different phases we configured it to simulate wide-area exploration of the Moon, the search for past life on Mars, and the gathering of meteorite samples in the Antarctic."

The latter would probably be its first use, sometime in 1998 or 1999. A number of important meteorites have been found in the Antarctic - such as ALH 84001, discovered in 1984, which Nasa scientists last year said showed signs that there had once been past life on Mars.

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news

I know it's only rock'n'roll, but I don't like it

David Lister
Arts News Editor

A woman who says she does not particularly like rock music has won thousands of pounds worth of rock memorabilia in a competition and now faces a hefty insurance bill for the mini-museum she will now have in her living room.

Julie Morris, 29, a manager with an educational supplies unit – at the urging of her husband (also not a rock fan) – won a competition on the Atlantic 252 radio station and earned as her prize the gold eagle from Michael Jackson's jacket, a personalised platinum Spice Girls disc, a keyboard from The Lightning Seeds, a pair of shoes from Boyzone, Gary Barlow's piano stool and Sheryl Crow's Fender Telecaster guitar.

A slightly bewildered Mrs Morris said yesterday she liked middle-of-the-road music, and had a hankering for Wet Wet Wet. She had rearranged her living room in Swinton, Manchester, to put the Jackson eagle in its glass case neatly over the fireplace and Barlow's piano stool by the window. The Spice Girls disc went with the wallpaper – more or less.

"I imagine I will have to insure it all," she sighed. "I'm

slightly worried. It's a bit strange having all this in a three bedroom semi. I suppose I could always open a rock museum and charge people £3 an hour."

Henry Owen, station manager at Atlantic 252, added: "We always try to come up with an idea that is a little off-the-wall and offer our audience something money can't buy. So as we interviewed each star we got a little something from them. The guitars alone are worth £2,500 each, so yes I suppose insurance is something that Julie will have to consider."

Other memorabilia that Mrs Morris will have to find space for in her living room include: a fishing rod from Cast; a dress from Alisha's Attic; a bass guitar from Ocean Colour Scene; Skunk Anansie's gold disc, and an autographed, limited edition Erasur box set.

Atlantic 252's brand manager, Darren Thomas, said: "We'd never go so far as to suggest that Atlantic 252 can change your life. But it can certainly change your living room."

The Morrisises will, it seems, have to admire their mini-museum themselves. If they were to open it to the public it would constitute a change of use for the house, and planning permission would be required.



Memorabilia lane: Julie Morris trying out one of her prizes – a bass guitar that once belonged to the rock band Ocean Colour Scene

Photograph: Nigel Hillier

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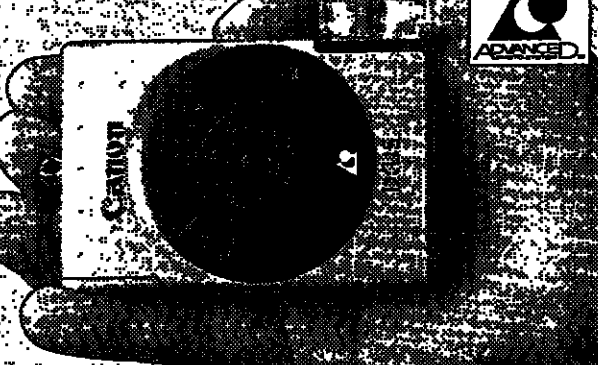
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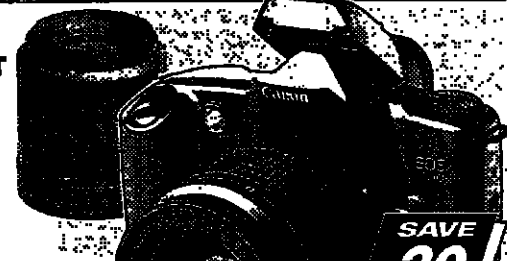
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There's a Great Deal going on

Mowlam puts faith in peace impetus

Jojo Moyes
Belfast

Northern Ireland secretary Mo Mowlam and Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, concluded their first face-to-face meeting in 18 months yesterday, saying they hoped the impetus towards a new peace process would continue to move forward.

Ms Mowlam and Mr Adams spent more than two hours in "constructive" and "business-like" talks at Stormont's Castle Buildings, twice the time anticipated for the meeting. They did not shake hands publicly, but said they had done so at the start of the meeting.

Mr Adams, who issued a call for a united Ireland immediately before the meeting, headed a five-strong delegation, which included Martin McGuinness and Martin Ferris, who was convicted in 1984 of gun-running for the IRA. His presence was seen to be significant, due to his influence on the hard-line elements of the party.

Ms Mowlam, accompanied by political affairs minister, Paul Murphy, urged the earliest possible decommissioning of weapons and said she hoped circumstances would enable further meetings to take place.

"We discussed a wide range of issues including prisoners, parades, equality of treatment, security and other confidence-building measures. I confirmed that the Government remains committed to the joint paper on decommissioning and urged Sinn Féin to work to achieve the

earliest possible decommissioning of all paramilitary weapons," she said.

Ms Mowlam described Mr Adams as a "strong, competent leader" of his party, adding that she hoped that the ceasefire would continue in the weeks ahead, and that he would be able to take his place at the talks table with the other parties.

She said she felt that the meeting had helped convince her of Mr Adams' commitment to peace. What had come forward, she said, was an acknowledgement on both sides "that everyone has to change a bit". Ms Mowlam was mindful that victims of IRA violence might criticise her decision to meet with the Sinn Féin delegation, and apologised in advance.

"I'm sorry if I have caused them upset and anger at what we've done by talking to Sinn Féin, but we worked hard to get the IRA ceasefire, as did other people. The only way we are going to get to a state where we do not get further killings and violence and loss of lives is if we sit down and talk. I think we're closer than for many, many years."

Mr Adams, meanwhile, said he was satisfied that the items that would help lead to a lasting peace settlement were now on the agenda. The main point Sinn Féin had pushed during the day's meeting was the ending of the union, a point enlarged upon in a five-page "introductory document", which claimed that British rule sustained a culture of "discrimination, inequality and intolerance".

Blair urges TUC and CBI to talk

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair has asked TUC leaders and CBI bosses to try to reach a deal over trade union recognition before the Government publishes a white paper threatening legislation on the issue, which caused a flashpoint during the general election.

The TUC general secretary John Monks and Adair Turner, the director of the CBI, have thrashed out their differences over trade union recognition over private dinners accompanied by their teams. "There have been top teams on both sides," said a union source.

The private dinners have taken place without Mr Blair's trade union adviser, John Crundas, being present. That is being seen at Westminster as clear evidence that Mr Blair

wants the two sides of industry to reach a new bipartisan relationship, without the Government taking part.

"Tony would prefer a voluntary code of practice, if possible. He is keen to avoid a row over this issue," said one Labour insider.

The unions would not settle for a voluntary code of practice, but one option could be to have a code underpinned by statutory powers, for firms where there was no agreement. "You don't get a voluntary agreement unless there is pressure on the employers to respond to the work force," said the union source.

In spite of signs that Mr Blair is seeking to reach a compromise, Whitehall sources said the Government was committed to legislation, which would not be abandoned.

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Guam air disaster



Wreckage of the Korean Air Boeing 747 was still smouldering yesterday on a steep jungle slope on Guam. Most of the passengers were honeymooners and families with young children

Photograph: AP

Honeymoon flight that ended in horror

Richard Lloyd Parry
Guam

Nothing looks more solid than a jumbo jet sitting on a runway. But Korean Air flight 801, yesterday's early morning arrival from Seoul to Guam packed with newlyweds on their honeymoon, looks frail, flimsy and surprisingly small.

Only its back end is recognisable as a Boeing 747 – the distinctive tail fin, with the bright blue and red Korean yin-and-yang symbol, is still in one piece, but thrust up at an awkward angle by the jungle vegetation. The cockpit and the bulge of the first class cabin are still partly intact but they are 25 yards away, over a short precipice. The rest of it, the economy class mid-section, is an indistinguishable mass of burned cases, and at least 155 human beings.

Even late last night, the remains were too hot too touch, and from here it seems unimaginable that anyone could have survived. Early yesterday, just before 2am, the Boeing 747 severed an oil pipeline, brushed tree tops, and burst into flames

on this steep jungle slope, just three miles from the airport where it was going in to land. Judging from the crash site, it is remarkable that anyone escaped. But some 30 passengers survived, although the official number was shrinking every other hour as a few more died in hospital of their injuries.

The only New Zealander on board, a Guam-based helicopter mechanic named Barry Small, literally walked away from the plane, but later underwent emergency surgery on his injured legs. An eleven-year-old Japanese girl named Rika Matsuda was plucked from the wreckage almost unscathed by the Governor of Guam himself, Carl Gutierrez. Her mother, Shigeko, has not been found, and the last of the survivors, believed to be a Korean mother and child, were finally cut out of the wreckage at about 9am yesterday. Of the hundreds of American soldiers and volunteers who arrived on the scene an hour after the plane went down, none was under any illusions that they would find anyone else alive.

To the rest of the world, the island of Guam is most significant

‘It's not apologies we need now. Tell us about the fate of our loved ones before talking about black boxes’

as an American military base, the biggest of the Mariana chain, from whose islands the *Enola Gay* was launched to bomb Hiroshima exactly 52 years ago yesterday. Only 150,000 people live on its 212 square miles, a third of which are given over to camps and bases. But to Japanese and Koreans, it is the Barbados of the east, a romantic resort island, also popular with young families. Flight 801, like every flight from Seoul to Guam this month, was full of young children and with honeymooning couples.



Relatives of the crash victims comfort each other at Seoul airport yesterday after Korean Air published a list of survivors of the Guam disaster

Photograph: AP

reans, it is the Barbados of the east, a romantic resort island, also popular with young families. Flight 801, like every flight from Seoul to Guam this month, was full of young children and with honeymooning couples.

Yesterday, their relatives began arriving from Seoul. Bitter recrimination has been heard by bereaved relatives on the airline and its handling of the crisis. Senior Korean Air officials have arrived in Guam and a modicum of organisation has been restored to the situation, with an emergency news centre set up in a resort hotel. In the early stages, however, there appears to have been no central

co-ordination. “No one told us anything! Nothing!” said Jeannie Kim, a 20-year-old Korean-American who waited at the airport until 4am for her father, who was travelling home to Guam from a business trip on Flight 801. “I asked them, ‘What the hell’s going on?’ and they said that in fifteen minutes

they’d explain. Nobody came. Then some guy told me that there’s been a crash. At first I thought he was joking. Everyone was crying, there was hysteria. And now they’re giving us the same bullshit.” Ms Kim’s father is not on the list of survivors. Particular anguish focuses on the airline’s reluctance

to publish an official list of the dead as well as the living. Korean Air’s vice-president, Shin In Taek, was barracked by relatives as he read out a statement at their hotel yesterday afternoon. “It’s not apologies and technical information we need now,” shouted one old man. “Tell us about the fate of our loved ones before talking about black boxes.”

“They’re just giving us the obvious,” said Jeannie Kim. “We know there was a crash, we know where it happened. I want to know if my father is alive, or if he is still out there.”

The relatives will arrive at the site in their hundreds today; yesterday there was a mere handful, outnumbered by reporters and television crews. A young woman stared down at the wreckage, weeping quietly for her dead husband. The cameramen glanced sheepishly at one another and took it in turns to focus their lenses on her crying face. A Korean man gave a gasping wail and waved his arms. A few times an hour, Boeing 747s droned in almost directly overhead, carrying more children and honeymooners to their tropical summer holiday.

Driving rain and lack of landing system blamed

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

A deadly combination of poor weather and the lack of a key guidance system was the most likely cause of the Korean Air jumbo crash, according to experts.

The Boeing 747 plunged into the side of a hill covered in dense jungle amid high winds and lashing rain in pitch darkness. The pilot was flying without part of his landing system – known as a glide slope – which would have kept the plane above the peaks surrounding Guam’s airport.

Flying experts said that the pilot has to accept some of the responsibility for the crash. “He was the captain and he should not have got there in the first place,” said Captain Eric Moody, a former pilot with British Airways and a technical expert with the pilot’s union, BAPPA.

Capt Moody said that even if the pilot had not taken the normal landing path there



Rescuers removing a survivor from the wreckage of the Korean Air Boeing 747 which crashed early yesterday morning

Photograph: AP

are “beacons posted around airstrips which guide a plane down from thousands of feet”.

David Learmont, safety editor with *Flight International*, pointed out that pilots can follow a simple rule of thumb to land at airports without a complicated guidance system. “It is simple. Just drop 300 feet for every mile off a runway you find yourself. Of course, the visibility may have been so bad that he may not have seen the airstrip lights even if he was only a mile away.”

Mr Learmont said that the crash would be classified as “controlled flight into terrain” – crashes that occur when a perfectly serviceable aircraft hits the ground because its crew were unaware they were flying so low.

Early reports that there may have been an explosion on board the flight before it hit the side of the mountain were dismissed.

The plane which usually flies the Seoul-Guam route is an Airbus A300, and the Boeing 747 is laid on only during the peak season. There is speculation that the jumbo pilot’s inexperience with the approach to Guam might have contributed to the disaster.

The crash was Korean Air’s first since 1989, but the company’s accident rate is relatively high. Marty Salfen, senior vice president of the International Airline Passengers’ Association, said the airline had an accident rate of 1.91 per million departures over the past 10 years against the worldwide rate of 0.581 per million. That figure does not include the loss of KAL flight 007 that strayed into Soviet airspace in 1983 and was shot down.

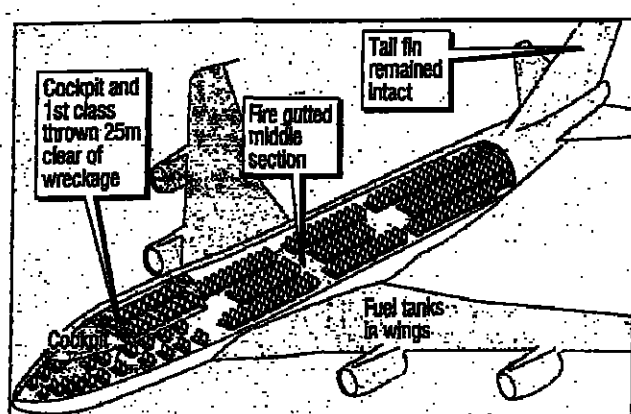
The cause of the crash will become clearer after the digital flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder are analysed. Both have been recovered and are being shipped to Washington DC for analysis by the US National Transportation Safety Board.

Count the rows to the exit

The latest crash again raises the question: where are the safest seats on a jumbo? Conventional wisdom is that the rear of the plane is the place which offers the most protection, writes Randeep Ramesh.

It is here that designers usually put the black box recorders and this would be the furthest from impact in a jet plunging nose first into the earth.

The most obvious example where this has been shown to be true was in the world’s worst aircraft disaster involving only one plane. This occurred when a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed into Mount Oosaka on a domestic flight, killing all but four of the 524 passengers on



board. All the survivors were sitting at the rear of the plane. Most crashes, however, do not tend to end with nose dives. This week’s disaster saw only the tail section left relatively intact. The rest of the fuselage had broken

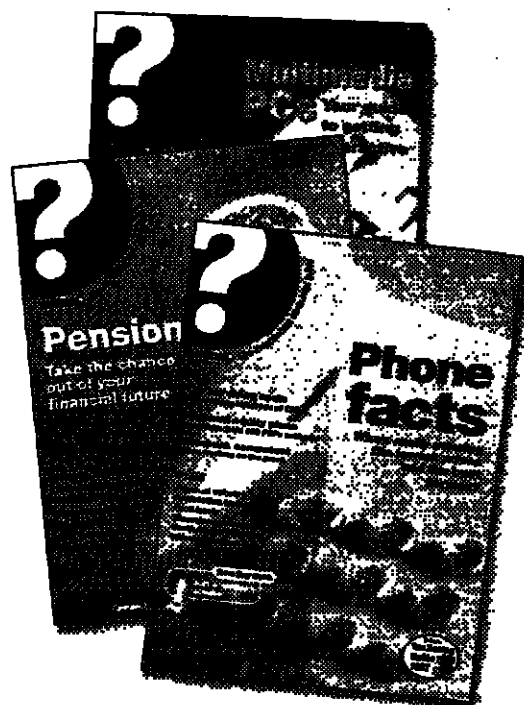
into more than six major hunks of metal. The first-class section came to rest more than 25 metres away from the rest of the plane. The middle section was gutted by fire and the 30 survivors were found in the

back and the front of the aircraft.

In theory the strongest parts of an aircraft are above the main spar which runs through the fuselage and into the wings.

Experts also use a “survivability” index to gauge how many people would escape from a crash. “This is affected by many things,” says Stephen Barlay, author of *The Final Call: Air Safety and Aviation Accidents*. “For example: how many people count the number of seats to the nearest exit? This may be important if you cannot see the exits because of the thick smoke in the cabin.”

Mr Barlay said that choosing where to sit may also determine survival. Aisle seats offer easy exit routes and are the most likely to be bolted down firmly.

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Which? THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE



General Sir Peter de Billière: Criticised for 'grotesque misrepresentation' of SAS stakeout

Army goes to war over SAS man's revelations

Ian Burrell

The Ministry of Defence has blocked the publication of new evidence which is set to reignite the controversy surrounding "non-judicial executions" of terror suspects by British forces in Northern Ireland.

Army censors have suppressed a statement compiled by an Army intelligence officer which describes in graphic detail an SAS action which led to the killing of three IRA suspects in 1991.

The statement was due to be published today in a new history of the SAS and other special forces units, but was withdrawn following a meeting between ministry officials and the publishers.

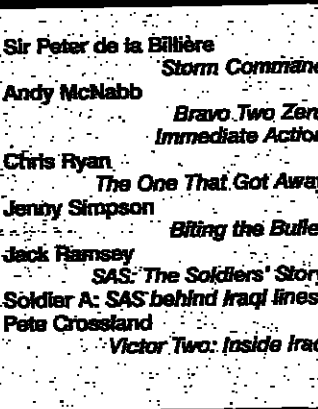
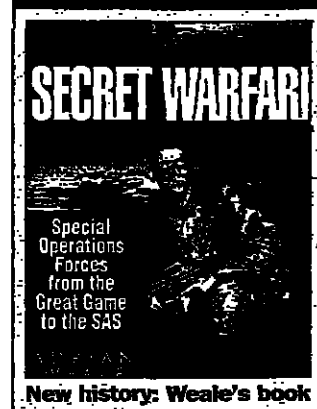
The book makes a vitriolic attack on Sir Peter de Billière, the commander of British forces in the Gulf War and the

former director of the SAS, who is accused of misrepresenting the actions of the elite regiment in Northern Ireland in his own book.

The *Independent* has obtained an account, compiled by

an operative with 14th Intelligence, an undercover army unit that works closely with the SAS. The account describes an SAS operation designed to preempt a sectarian IRA attack at Coagh, in County Tyrone in

Shoot and tell: the soldiers' best-sellers



New history: Weale's book

Adrian Weale: Censored

ment on the matter but it is thought that ministry officials believed the intelligence officer had overstated the amount of information which the SAS had prior to the ambush.

There may also be concerns that, despite the passage of more than six years, the inquests into the three deaths have still not been heard or even listed. At the time of the killings, nationalist politicians had expressed their hope that every effort had been made to arrest the men.

Last night, Francis Molloy, a Sinn Féin councillor who knew the three dead men, said: "This shows there were enough troops on the ground to have secured the arrest of the occupants of the car without anyone being shot."

Instead it was a case of judge, jury and executioner all in one operation."

But the MoD censors have allowed the book to carry its attack on General de la Billière for his description of SAS activities in Northern Ireland in his 1994 autobiography, *Looking for Trouble*.

In particular, the general's account of the killing of a young Catholic farmer's son, is denounced as a "grotesque misrepresentation of what actually took place". John Boyle, 16, was mistakenly shot dead by two SAS men who were staking out a terrorist arms cache at a cemetery in Dunloy, Co Antrim, in 1978.

Drawing on subsequent court evidence, Mr Weale reports that the youth had earlier found the weapons and alerted the security services. But he could not resist returning to the site the following day.

In his description of the shooting, General de la Billière claims it took place at night following a stakeout lasting several days after troops had uncovered the cache themselves. He says of the victim: "Clearly the dead man had been a member of the IRA; but he was only 16, and probably a low-grade operator."

Mr Weale writes: "Almost every detail of this version of events is false: the weapons were not originally discovered by soldiers but by Boyle himself; the stakeout had lasted for less than 24 hours; the shooting happened in broad daylight at 10am; and the victim was not and never had been a member of the IRA."

General de la Billière declined to comment.

Mozart's 42nd ...by computer

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

Can a decomposing composer compose? In the modern world, yes - with the help of a computer. A program written by David Cope, a scientist and musician, has now produced new works by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Mahler, Rachmaninoff and the ragtime composer, Scott Joplin.

Among 10 symphonies generated by the program, named EMI ("Experiments in Musical Intelligence"), is Mozart's 42nd symphony, premiered in Santa Cruz, California, in April, and produced 207 years after Wolfgang Amadeus wrote his 41st. It is "one of the most provocative things I've ever come across in artificial intelligence," said Douglas Hofstadter, a cognitive scientist.

Mr Cope devised EMI in 1982, aged 41, as a way of analysing music he had written.

The program takes pieces of music, breaking them up into tiny "phrases", and reassembling them after applying a grammar and syntax of music set down by Mr Cope. The distinctive sound of a composer is captured by sifting examples of the composer's music for short sequences that show up in piece after piece. Record companies and retail chains are taking to the Internet. Virgin Megastores, a division of WH Smith, is expected to set up an Internet site in the autumn, while last week, Dillons and Waterstone's announced they would start competing over the Internet with US firms such as amazon.com, a Seattle-based Internet mail order company which has attracted millions of visitors by starting a promotion scheme in which the author John Updike began a mystery story using paragraphs contributed by visitors to the site.

Leading article, page 11
The *Tablet*, page 2

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Drumming up support: Michelle Bennett, a member of the Fitzalan School steel band, which won a first prize at the Eisteddfod. Photograph: Tegwyn Roberts

Drums beat harps to Eisteddfod win

Tony Heath

The rhythms of the Caribbean brought a new beat to this year's Royal National Eisteddfod, leaving traditionalists more accustomed to the strains of plucked harps than throbbing drums somewhat bewildered.

But the steel band from Cardiff's Fitzalan High School snatched off the first prize plus a £300 cheque in the Open Instrumental Competition.

The drummers all aged 14 to 16 come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Unlike the Eisteddfod where Welsh is the only official language, twenty-one different languages are spoken by pupils and staff at the comprehensive in the city's docklands. The school governors publish their annual report in nine languages: Gujarati, Welsh, Bengali, Arabic, Somali, Urdu, Cantonese, English, and Punjabi.

However, Angus Dunphy, the head teacher, said: "These children are Welsh. They may wear another hat or two but they are Welsh." For most of the band it was their first experience of a town like Bala, 200 miles north of Cardiff, where more than 75 per cent of people use Welsh as a first language.

The rise of mining in South Wales a hundred years ago drew people from all over the world. The school lies in an area, currently being developed by the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation in a £1bn-plus scheme, which has for long been a multi-racial community embracing West Indians, Somalis, Chinese, Americans and Europeans from many lands.

The docklands drummers are not the only innovation at this year's festival. For the first time, alcohol is being sold on the nearby "youth" field, while the main field stays dry.

The venture has sparked little interest, though, and festival-goers are shunning the bar for Bala's bustling pubs a mile down the road.

A visit by to the Eisteddfod by the Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, contrasted sharply with the appearance last year of his predecessor, William Hague, who abandoned his programme in the face of angry demonstrators.

Mr Davies strolled around meeting people with hardly any sign of a precautionary police presence.

Maybe the fact that he addressed a meeting in Welsh helped; it was the first time in 18 years that a Secretary of State has been able to do so.

BA cuts training to thwart strikes

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

British Airways is cutting the training time of new cabin crews in order to prevent the continuation of the "large-scale cancellations and disruption" which has resulted from a large number of staff being off sick.

The airline is still reeling from the effects of a three-day strike by stewards and stewardesses last month. Relations between management and staff remain poor, and a substantial number of cabin crew have still not returned to work. Maryn Bridger, head of cabin crew services at BA, has written to staff saying that sickness levels are "double the normal" in some fleets.

This has seen hundreds of services wiped from BA's schedules. According to the letter, since the strike ended more than 1,000 (13 per cent) of the total domestic and European flights and 220 (8 per cent) of longhaul services have had to be cancelled "as we have not been able to crew them".

In order to cope, the airline is to review its policy over staff sickness. BA will also "reduce its European flying during the summer or until we can be sure we can crew them reliably" and cut "all new entrant training programmes". At present staff need a 35-day course - but BA is proposing a "fast-track" 22-day schedule.

Many airlines consider crew training as a top priority for staff. Earlier this year the chief engineer for Air Canada told an industry conference that: "next to having serviceable equipment, the most important preparation for a safe environment is the training."

"Many of the public think that the cabin crew are there to serve the passenger, a waiter or waitress in the sky... we, in the business, know they are there to ensure that, in the event of an emergency, there will be a rapid, controlled, and safe evacuation of all passengers."

BA says that safety "is still a

top priority". The airline said that new recruits would only be missing out on "marketing presentations and some grooming training".

"All the mandatory courses will still be taken," said a spokesman. The airline claimed that its longhaul operations were running at "100 per cent".

The company added that staff were returning to their jobs. "At Heathrow, the number of cabin crew registered sick, above the normal level for this time of year, has fallen by 30 per cent in the past four days. At Gatwick, cabin crew sickness levels have now returned to the seasonal average".

According to a letter, obtained by *The Independent*, the "problems can be traced to a 72-hour strike" last month. "Over three days, we normally expect around 5,400 people to report... during the strike over 3,500 did not."

Ominously, management appears to be hardening its stance. "We will be interviewing everyone who went sick over the strike period after their return to work," writes Mr Bridger.

The airline's executives are determined never again to allow staff to take sick leave instead of going on strike. "Some people are openly saying that they are 'taking their turn' to go sick, as they felt those who went sick over the strike period 'had thought they had got away with it'." Mr Bridger added.

As a result of the industrial action and the following disruption, BA has lost more than £125m so far - over a cost-cutting programme that would have only saved £42m.

Many companies have reported that they are reviewing the lucrative corporate accounts lodged with BA in the light of the strike and executives are terrified that this business will walk away from the airline.

The dispute remains unresolved, but management and union representatives are locked in talks.

The National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education

Higher Education in the learning society

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The Wood Is

By Walter Perrie

patient for felling by limber
young men, mere acres of timber
so many percent per annum
return on a capital sum...

trumpet bright for a chanterelle
pale for the destroying angel
buzzing certainty of the bee
light on mortal tongue like honey...

for ever just beyond our reach
alphabet of subtle speech
text for the mystic scholiast
index of all our bliss and blast.

From *Milady's Wood* (the book from which this poem comes) is the sixth volume by former steelworker Walter Perrie, who now lives in Perthshire. It is published by Scottish Cultural Press, price £4.95.

art's 42nd computer

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Former colonies face a change of name

New style: Baroness Symons, changing attitudes at the Foreign Office Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

The dependent territories are: Gibraltar; Bermuda; Montserrat; Anguilla; Turks and Caicos; Cayman Islands; the British Virgin Islands; St Helena and its dependencies; Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands; the Falkland Islands; South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands; British Antarctic Territory; British Indian Ocean Territory and the Pitcairn Islands.

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Water over Innovations

significant shorts

Presidents pledge extra effort in Bosnia

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the Bosnia's three-man presidency, pledged to redouble efforts to strengthen the three-year-old Muslim-Croat federation that comprises half of Bosnia.

The United States government wants to see the Dayton peace agreement implemented before its troops' scheduled departure from Bosnia in the spring of 1998. Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the 1995 accord, and Robert Gelbard, US special envoy for the former Yugoslavia, also came to Split to push for progress. Croatia has come under increasing international pressure for failing to ensure that Bosnian Croats abide with the Dayton accord. AP - Split

Cambodia replaces co-premier

Cambodian legislators bowed to the will of strongman Hun Sen, endorsing his bloody coup of 5 July by voting into power a new co-premier to replace the deposed Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Legislators voted by a two-thirds majority to elevate the foreign minister, Ung Huot, to the co-premiership, despite concerns that the move may prove unconstitutional. AP - Phnom Penh

71 million Chinese leave home

The "floating population" of Chinese workers who have left home to look for work has risen to 70.7 million. The *Business News*, citing official figures, said the figure was up sharply from previous years. Most migrants are from rural villages, the newspaper said. It said that more of them were men than women, and 92 per cent were between the ages of 15 and 59. AP - Shanghai

Teenagers clean up their act

Illegal drug use by American teenagers is down slightly but is still much higher than it was five years ago. Teenage alcohol use has also decreased from a year earlier. The annual National Household Survey on Drug Abuse said that 9 per cent of teenagers in the United States used drugs in 1996, compared with 10.9 per cent in 1995. But the survey also showed an increase in drug use among 18-to-25-year-olds, from 13.3 per cent in 1994 to 15.6 per cent in 1996. AP - Washington

Peking warns US off Tibet

China lashed out with an official commentary that accused the United States of trying to meddle in its internal politics by appointing an official to handle Tibet-related affairs. In the first public reaction since US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright proposed last week to appoint a special US policy co-ordinator for Tibet, the *China Daily* newspaper warned Washington to "draw back the hand that tries to stir China's business". AP - Peking

Sweetie the rat taken in raid

The star of a soon-to-be-released international television series has been abducted. Sweetie the rat was stolen when burglars ransacked the Gibson Group film production house in Wellington. Sweetie stars in the latest instalments of *Mirror Mirror*, a children's fantasy series. "Sweetie is a star. She is an important character in an international series coming out next year," art department co-ordinator Heidi Oosterman said. The trained white and fawn rat had recently been depressed, rarely leaving her bed. "Something like this could devastate her," Ms Oosterman said. AP - Wellington

Phil Davison reports from Montserrat that Plymouth will be uninhabitable for generations



Volcanic casualty: Plymouth's two bridges are gone, the beach is under 20ft of ash and the pyroclastic flow has reached a height of 50ft in places Photograph: Barry Lewis/Network

A sludge of ash blankets the dead, destroyed capital

Old Towne, Montserrat—The rolling rumble of the thunderstorm shook me from my bed at 4.02am as orange lightning flashes flickered across my room. Except that it was not a thunderstorm. It was Montserrat's Soufriere volcano erupting, creating its own lightning, and it was an awesome experience, even a couple of miles from the bubbling crater.

First came the grey smoke, then the black, rising in a mushroom cloud like a dark atomic bomb until it completely shut out the earlier tapestry of shimmering stars. The entire island fell blacker than black, split only by continuing bolts of orange.

On a post-dawn helicopter reconnaissance yesterday, the damage was obvious. Most of the island's 350-year-old capital, Plymouth, is under a charcoal-grey mass of ash or sludge, its seafront unrecognisable, its

key bridges and single-storey buildings buried, others still smouldering after catching fire from red-hot gas, ash or searing pumice pebbles. Yesterday, you could see only the top half of the once-bustling two-storey supermarket.

Long evacuated, Plymouth had been an unpopulated ghost town. Now, the town itself is dead.

"I would say without doubt that Plymouth will not be habitable for generations now," said Montserrat police commissioner Frank Hooper, a chief superintendent on secondment from Sussex police, after the stomach-churning trip in a tiny glass-fronted helicopter.

"In broad terms, the centre of Plymouth is generally destroyed. To rebuild it, we'd have to start from scratch. The cost would be horrendous," Mr Hooper said.

"The town's two bridges are completely destroyed. The beach is under 20ft of ash. The flow has reached a height of 50ft at some points. The problem now is we're in the hurricane season, when we can get 10 inches of rain in 12 hours. If we get a major storm, we can expect major mudflows."

Since it is too dangerous to send in firemen, the authorities are forced to watch the town burn. Yesterday, the latest casualty, seen smouldering from the helicopter, was the technical college on the road between here and Plymouth.

What the scientists call the pyroclastic flow—an avalanche

of 700C ash, gas and rock careering down the volcano's slopes at 100mph, following what locals call ghasts ghauts, or dry river beds—has been surging from the crater roughly every 12 hours since Sunday. Yesterday, it widened to endanger the evacuated village of Molineux in the Belham River valley and the entire "central buffer zone" between the total "exclusion zone" of the south and the relatively safe north.

The buffer zone was finally evacuated on Monday night, in-

cluding the landmark Vue Pointe hotel in Old Towne and the sea-level area around the Montserrat golf course, which has been showered with ash and now looks like falling into disrepair since no one can reach it.

"It is important you don't go sightseeing. There's no way anyone can reach you if you get stuck," said the lilting

Caribbean voice of announcer Rose Willock on Radio Montserrat yesterday. "There will be time enough for all of you to go sightseeing in the next 20 years."

Most Montserratians, in their homes, in the Salem church refuge centre, in the reggae-blasting wooden shacks where rastafarian youths guzzle beer or rum and play snooker, stay tuned to the station for its emergency broadcasts.

Among those overflying the volcano yesterday was Jill Nor-

"It's an awesome sight, to see a mushroom cloud in the classical umbrella shape or an avalanche of hot gas and ash at night when it reaches 800C and you can see it glow."

Despite the stress of living under the volcano, those Montserratians still here are coping well, managing to maintain their laid-back Caribbean lifestyle despite the hardships. Some even took the little ferry to Antigua for the island's carnival on Tuesday, braving a heaving Atlantic swell that often seemed to threaten to swallow up the boat.

Instead of rebuilding in the volcano's shadow, the British and local governments are studying the possibility of a new capital in the rugged northern part of the island, so far relatively unscathed, where hundreds of refugees are living in churches or corrugated-iron huts often without water or flushing toilets.

It was from that zone, at a makeshift jetty known as Little Bay, that refugees continued to flee on a small ferryboat to the island of Antigua. Probably fewer than half the island's 11,000 residents are still here but most who have fled say they would come back if the north was developed.



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Israel keeps up the pressure on Palestinians

Eric Silver
Jerusalem

Israel yesterday resisted pressure from the United States to relax economic sanctions imposed on the 2 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after last Wednesday's suicide bombing, which killed 13 Israeli civilians in a Jerusalem market.

After more than three hours of talks in Jerusalem with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, insisted that Yasser Arafat must first convince him that he was fighting the men of violence.

Israel, he said, was allowing food and medical supplies to enter the Palestinian territories, but that was all.

"If they [the Palestinian Authority] begin to fight terrorism, we will review the various steps that were taken in order to make them fight terrorism. If they act, we shall act."

Washington doubts the wisdom of the sanctions. The State Department said on Tuesday that withholding tax revenues collected by Israel on behalf of

the Palestinian Authority was "counter-productive".

Similar arguments have been urged on Mr Netanyahu by the European Union, Egypt and Jordan. But the Prime Minister is not budging.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State called on both Israelis and Palestinians yesterday to do more to advance the peace process and said she is planning to travel to the region by the end of the month.

The Palestinians are feeling the pinch. Under the peace agreement, Israel collects about \$500m (£300m) a year in VAT and other taxes for Mr Arafat's exchequer. It is refusing to hand over about \$25m. At the same time, more than 100,000 Palestinian day labourers are denied access to jobs in Israel.

Because Israel is keeping back the tax revenues, tens of thousands of Palestinian public employees are not being paid.

The Americans argue that this is no way to achieve Mr Netanyahu's aims. "If you want a highly-motivated police force to round up terrorists," one diplomat said yesterday, "you've got to pay them."

Oil town finds a new source of wealth on tap

David Ushorne
New York

The good people of Houston, Texas, may shortly have one more brand of bottled water to consider alongside Perrier and Evian. The name has not yet been chosen, but the provenance has: the city taps.

Mesmerised by the red-hot growth of the bottled water market—it has doubled in size in the United States in the last ten years—the city government in Houston is actually considering drawing water from its municipal supply, putting it in plastic bottles and then selling it in supermarkets.

Never mind that consumers will be asked to pay as much as one dollar for a quart of the water if it is packaged in bottles when they could take the same amount from their own taps for something less than one tenth of a cent. Market it right, the city believes, and the bottles will fly from the shelves.

Other US cities drawing up similar plans for brands of *appellation tap control* are North Miami, Florida and Kansas City.

Gary Hemphill, an analyst for Beverage Marketing in New York, says he is not surprised by what at first seems to be an incredibly cheeky idea. In 1996 alone, he points out, supermarket sales in the US of water in small bottles grew by an incredible 22 per cent. "The segment is on fire," he said yesterday.

But when brands like Evian sell principally on the appeal of the pure and natural origins of the water, drawn from pristine Alpine springs and aquifers, it is hard to imagine how Houston will dress up a product so self-evidently un-natural as water that has been chemically treated. "It may be an uphill battle," says Mr Hemphill.

Enthusiasm in Houston is not likely to be dented, however. "We just note that for whatever reason, people seem to like to get their water out of bottles these days," the deputy director of public works, Dan Jones, told the *New York Times*. "And we've got especially good water, as municipal water goes". One possible name under consideration: "Houston Superior".

How about "Houston Chutzpah"?

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Don't panic, 'family life' is quietly thriving

Family is one of those words it is almost impossible to use in a non-evaluative way. Like community, home, perhaps even market, it has come to connote something positive. Even the statisticians have capitulated. Instead of their chilly and non-evaluative term "household" they are now prepared to "focus on families". That, at least, is the title of a new compilation from the Office for National Statistics.

As usual, it is an immaculate conception, clear and comprehensible, a must-read for those tempted to opine about the decline and fall of this most central of social institutions.

The risk the statisticians run is that the right-wing social panickers will ask why haven't they been even more evaluative, as they bemoan the indices of deterioration in the sacred family in their newspaper columns this morning. The reply is twofold.

A first response says, contrary to social wisdom as peddled by the *Daily Mail*, "family" life is alive and remarkably well. We all continue, men and women, to bond with one another, live together, have children, look after them reasonably well and when they in their turn have children while we may not all live together we keep in contact, on the phone, getting together for high days and holidays.

Let it be shouted from the rooftops that the majority of children grow up

in a family with two parents, that four of every five dependent children live in a "family", with a mum and a dad.

The second answer says that priests may mount their pulpits and secretaries of state may pull their legislative levers but at the end of the day "micro" social behaviour appears to be immune to the urgings of moralisers and ministers.

The way we couple, procreate, evaluate our own lives and our choices belongs to a realm ungoverned by and perhaps ungovernable by those who claim to possess social authority. We fall in and out of love, we cherish our offspring unofficially, and that is a fact worth celebrating.

Our society is not the first to find it hard to register social change except as deterioration. A few counterintuitive facts help. According to *Social Focus on Families*, the phenomenon of "latchkey kids" is less prevalent now than a generation ago; that is to say, fewer children return after school to empty homes. When they return (to their mothers, generally speaking) families now do much less eating together than they once did. We all graze or snack more and there are fewer family meals.

Yet only those who are certain the past was better can judge that ill. How many forty-somethings recollect meal-times that were strained and stilted, conversation limited to grunts, mono-

syllables and hysterical outbursts by both parents and children?

Meanwhile the notion that all the curves are heading in the same direction is dispelled by these data. Marriage is an institution in motion, to be sure - ask Mrs Robin Cook, not to mention the partner of ex-premier John Major's son, let alone the lovers of princes and paupers, husbands, wives and mistresses high and low.

But to behold the divorce rate among late twenty-somethings (a key age for marriage bust-up) seems to have levelled. Yes, two in five marriages contracted now look like end-

ing in divorce, but the 60 odd per cent that don't look pretty solid. Could it be that certain marriages are destined to last, that a certain fraction of the marrying population is fortunate enough, strong-willed enough or complacent enough to keep things together through thick and thin?

This new collection reminds us of the fact of marital renewal, as a large slice of the divorced population remarries. It's true that "once bitten twice shy" holds less for men than for women but the idea that marriage is going out of fashion is simply not true. What is incontrovertible is that we

cannot sustain our general standards of living without women's input into both the formal economy and households. The tables in this report should be required reading for all those writers who wring their hands and mop their brows over the fate of modern men. The brute fact is that women work outside the home and they work within it. Social change has not yet done much for the domestic division of labour. More children may be snacking rather than eating formal meals but guess which parent buys the biscuits?

The Office for National Statistics has been pregnant with this collection for some time. Given the salience of family matters in public policy and the wealth of material available both through official surveys and the work paid for by the Economic and Social Research Council - notably the British Household Panel Survey - it wasn't absence of data that was the problem. Would Tim Holt, the Registrar General, have brought this out while the Tories still ruled?

Withal, we should be grateful, while noticing the lacunae. What actually happens behind the family front, let alone the bedroom doors, is not on display here. The implicit contracts men and women enter into with each other, the way some mothers and daughters cement a relationship that lasts till death parts them, turning

grandparents into invaluable assistants in child-rearing, the reason why certain family units "work" despite material handicap or the absence of significant adults ... That is the empire of love, of affection that springs up autonomously, exceedingly difficult to measure, impossible to rule. It does not appear in imminent danger.

A novel approach, if nothing else

If you want to send a message, said Isam Goldwyn to his film producer colleagues, use Western Union. What he meant was that there are certain things film is good for and certain things for which older technology is much better suited. If you want to write a novel, we are tempted to say to John Updike and his Internet collaborators, get a word processor, some paper and - most important of all - a critical editor. The World Wide Web will, one day, lend itself to creative endeavour, perhaps utilising its unique ability to jump between bodies of text and graphics. It possesses its own grammar, its own dynamics; let it find an appropriate content. It is not, on the evidence of the Updike oeuvre, a medium for creative fiction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Korea wants Britain as a partner

Sir: Your leader ("High stakes in Korea, and rewards to match", 6 August) is very perceptive: we as a nation do indeed "have a lot tied up in Korea" and this is not as widely known as it should be. To the strategic, trade and investment interests you draw attention to, it is important to add education, science and technology. Korean school students are renowned for their performance in international league tables in maths and science, while Britain is perceived to be good at the creative aspects of education. We naturally complement each other. Hence the increasing number of Koreans seeking sixth-form and university education in Britain.

In science and technology, the South Korean government has planned investment growth over the next few years on a generous scale that clearly recognises their importance in a modern economy. Again, Britain is perceived to be a good partner with its long tradition of discovery and innovation. There are messages here that our new government should be listening to carefully. We need a strong science base to respond to these opportunities.

Education, science and technology will also be key players in the eventual reconciliation of North and South. A future united Korea will remember who its partners were in the immensely difficult period of transition. Professor DENIS NOBLE, FRS, Balliol College, Oxford

Sir: Your leader refers to "High stakes in Korea, and rewards to match" (5 August). Naturally it is the isolation, the fragile economy and the current humanitarian catastrophe in North Korea that compels our attention.

We tend to measure and judge North Korea in terms of recent history. An appreciation that this is an ancient culture that has been criticised and threatened and indeed invaded many times does not excuse the current official attitude demonstrated by North Korea but may explain why contact with the outside world is so tentative.

With limited knowledge, therefore, how do we respond? I suggest by focusing on the innocent, those who have not created the crisis, those who may as future citizens and indeed leaders hold positive ideas about foreign attitudes and foreign aid.

It is the children of North Korea and their carers who need our understanding and support now. They are innocent. We now know that thousands of these children will die or suffer appalling illness and malnourishment unless external assistance exists. This need surpasses politics and history and cultures.

Following two donations of aid last year, Children's Aid Direct is about to commence a programme of food distribution to 17,000 children in Suncheon City, to the north of Pyongyang. A grant from the European Union makes this possible on one level. It is, however, the agreement of the North Korean authorities that will make this a reality. They value their children. They see them as the future.

DAVID H W GRUBB
Executive Director
Children's Aid Direct
Reading, Berkshire



Sir: "Koreans are a rather jolly bunch", according to your leading article (today (5 August)). Obviously not the same Koreans who were my sadistic camp guards while I was a Japanese POW in Java from 1942 to 1945. Jolly? Ugh!

However, my congratulations on an otherwise excellent leader. REX REYNOLDS
Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan

Combating car fumes

Sir: New evidence ("6,000 heart attacks a year from car fumes", 5 August) supports the Government's commitment to reducing private car usage, and demonstrates that urban traffic congestion is a burden on the NHS as well as UK business.

The research also strengthens the case of those arguing for a reversal of the road hierarchy to one favouring public transport over private - which incorporates a public transport "carrot" (smooth flow of buses) with a private transport "stick" (reduced private road space).

A first step in the right direction is to combat the blocking of bus lanes with the use of cameras fitted to the front of buses to identify offending motorists - currently being piloted in North London.

Many urban car users will be reticent to leave their car at home if alternative transport is not seen to be quicker. JOEY HUGHES
Socialist Environment & Resources Association
London N4

Sir: With regard to your article relating heart attacks to car fumes, when driving behind a vehicle with a catalytic converter one is frequently assailed by the smell of hydrogen sulphide (a smell of rotten eggs).

Hydrogen sulphide is only marginally less toxic than hydrogen cyanide, and both can cause cyanosis, leading to heart failure. The question is, which is more toxic in the concentration we breathe, hydrogen sulphide, or the sulphur dioxide which is emitted from cars not fitted with a catalytic converter? TERRY SCOTT
Nottingham

Sir: There are mitigating circumstances surrounding recent findings that every year 6,000 people suffer from heart attacks as a result of traffic pollution.

I, for one, will never have a heart attack despite living in central London. Why such a bold statement? Because, as a vegan, I have a cholesterol level of 122 mg/dl.

The Framingham Heart Study, which has been running for over 40 years, has shown that nobody with a cholesterol level under 150 mg/dl will have a heart attack. Incidentally, as a result of not eating animal products, almost all vegans have cholesterol levels below 150. ANDREW BUTLER,
Campaigns Co-ordinator
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
London SW15

Quality of police investigations

Sir: Peter Moorhouse, the Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, reveals a telling sensitivity to any hint of criticism of police investigations conducted under the supervision of his members (Letters, 4 August).

The deliberations in the corridors of the PCA and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the tragic death of Shiji Lapite concluded in their decisions that the police officers involved should not face criminal or disciplinary proceedings - decisions which they were unable to uphold or justify before the High Court.

One would have thought it inevitable that those deliberations must have been shaped and influenced by the quality of the information received from the police investigation into that case. The Chairman would have us believe that there was nothing wrong with the quality of that police investigation, in which event the decision makers in the PCA and the CPS are left to shoulder on their own the entire responsibility for the manifest efforts undertaken to avoid the obvious implications of the evidence as revealed before the High Court.

As it is, the PCA conceded before the court that their decision not to recommend disciplinary charges was flawed and unjustifiable because they had allowed themselves to be persuaded against recommending

disciplinary charges by representations from the Commander of the Metropolitan Police Complaints Investigation Bureau which were subsequently found to be misleading.

The PCA may indeed be a "force for change", providing the Chairman and his members show themselves to be more willing to resist the temptation of compromise and capitulation under the inevitable pressure of the police lobby on every aspect of their statutory functions in relation to the police complaints process. RAJU BHATT
B M Birmber & Co
London NW1

Overtaxation of the poor

Sir: Simon Brandenburger (Letters, 1 August) reflects the view now held by many thoughtful people that our taxation rates are too low. The result, of course, is that the Government has to allow interest rates to be high, and the pound, in turn, has a value high enough to affect our export trade adversely. Higher tax rates would enable the NHS and education to be improved, and our exports and employment to increase.

Any review of our tax system should address the question of fairness. The present system is unfair, and was deliberately made so by the Conservatives. Income tax, potentially our fairest tax, is much less progressive than it used

to be, and it represents only about a quarter of the Government's receipts. Inheritance tax has one rate only, whereas capital transfer tax, which it replaced, was graduated. Value added tax, 8 per cent in 1979, stands more than doubled at 17.5 per cent.

This system overtaxes poor people and undertaxes rich people, and it is one of the reasons why the gap between rich and poor is so wide today. On moral, social, and economic grounds, something should be done to increase revenue and make the system fairer. JOHN WYMER
Bridport, Dorset

Running out of waste space

Sir: Your leading article (30 July) suggests that waste in London is not a problem and all is well. This is not the case. London's domestic waste largely goes untreated into holes in the ground in adjacent counties. We will run out of space in less than 10 years. London at present only recycles 6 per cent of its waste and without major action will never achieve the Government's mammoth target of 25 per cent. The economic gain which recycling could bring, through new industries and jobs, is being thrown away.

The London Planning Advisory Committee is consulting on new policies for waste in London, proposing a moratorium on new incinerators in London until 2002 and the safeguarding of sites for new waste-related industries. ROBIN G CLEMENT
Deputy Chief Planner, London Planning Advisory Committee
London SW1

Childhood stress in the 1930s

Sir: Professor MacBeath's statement that "kids nowadays experience stress that kids didn't before" (2 August) must not go unchallenged.

I recall growing up in the 1930s: we had far greater unavoidable stress to cope with. Our childhood was spent under the shadow of one great conflict and in the expectation of another. We had no free medical treatment and no antibiotics. There was then no compulsory testing for TB in cattle; milk often came from affected cows. Hospital treatment was sometimes harsh and unsympathetic (I speak from personal experience). There was no safety net for the working class.

I took my School Certificate during the London Blitz (lessons were sometimes given in the school air-raid shelter). Had I not passed in Maths and English, I would have been obliged to re-sit the whole syllabus. In my life at least, religion loomed large; for several years I lived in fear of eternal damnation.

I am happy to say that our children did not have these same burdens to bear, nor, I hope, will their children. Today's stress for children is, of course, undeniable, but it is different and, dare I say it, sometimes avoidable. JOHN DOUGH
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

Sir: As a university lecturer, former psychiatric nurse and active researcher in the field of mental health, my reactions to your article "Learning to cope with stress, aged 11" (2 August) were mixed.

Certainly some forms of stress - such as family breakdown and bereavement - are unavoidable. In that sense the value of teaching young people how to cope with stress cannot be disputed. But to suggest that the most appropriate response to the pressures of exams and schoolwork is to teach young people stress management techniques is to miss the point.

If schoolwork has indeed become so stressful that young people cannot cope with it without being taught stress management, there is something fundamentally wrong with the education system. In that sense a more appropriate intervention than teaching stress management would be to identify and eliminate those aspects of the educational system which are making children feel miserable, depressed, rejected and inadequate. That would be true mental health promotion. JOHN HOPTON
Lecturer in Applied Social Studies
University of Manchester

Congratulations to all 97-year-olds

Sir: It is certainly right and proper to congratulate Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on reaching her 97th birthday, as you did today ("97 reasons to be cheerful", 5 August), and I join with you in those congratulations. But are we to assume from your last sentence - "Living to such an age as a cheerfully fulfilled human being - nay, merely - is a wonderful achievement of social status" - that from now on you will publish similar words of congratulation to all those who reach the age of 97? Or is this privilege still to be restricted solely to the privileged? The Rev Dr DAVID CHANTREY
Beckbury, Shropshire

analysis

A cleverer way to change the world

The trouble with think-tanks is that their ideas are seldom implemented and quickly fade. The new social gurus have found a better way to gain influence – they are founding their own schools. By Jack O'Sullivan

In the past, if you had a big idea, you wrote an article, maybe even a book. Latterly, you might have started a think-tank. But these days, the smart people, who really want to make a difference, start their own school. The big anti-establishment thinkers are busy creating educational institutes in their own image, where their philosophy and practice is instilled in a clutch of eager students who will go forth and change the world.

So last month Forum for the Future, a scholarship course designed by Jonathon Porritt and Sara Parkin, Britain's best-known Green intellectuals, produced its first graduates, whose mission will be to plant the environmental creed in the most powerful sections of society. The idea is that Greens will no longer simply be marginalised, tunnelling under road workings, protesting in tree houses and producing worthy but unread reports. They will be squatting highly paid, responsible jobs in business and government.

Meanwhile, Lord Young of Dartington has announced the foundation of his School for Social Entrepreneurs. Lord Young, now in his eighties and founder of dozens of organisations including the Consumers' Association and the Open University, is probably Britain's most successful social entrepreneur. He is keen to pass on the tricks of the trade to others who might wish to start up pressure groups, charities and voluntary organisations.

His school is for "the high-minded and hard-headed", who want to demonstrate that doing good requires more than sandals and brown rice. His graduates are intended to be the movers and shakers of the increasingly important voluntary and charitable sector, as efficient and innovative in their fields as the sharp-suited from the London Business School are in theirs.

Anita Roddick is another charismatic figure embracing this Nineties' way of making your mark. She recently started The New Academy of Business, which pursues her mission to incorporate social justice, human rights and spirituality into business practice alongside the more common preoccupations of finance and marketing. Her aim is to find people who will put

the best practices into action, because, she says, it is not enough just to change attitudes and increase knowledge.

These schools are the new secular seminaries, where young people can learn both a philosophy and ways of putting it into practice. A seminary means literally a breeding place or nursery and that is what is on offer, a chance to nurture a fresh generation, which will gradually infiltrate society's elites and change them from the inside. They are the do-gooding fifth columnists who will stay in touch, thanks to the Internet and e-mail, after graduation, even as they spill out into organisations all over the world. Each of the schools is already oversubscribed with excellent candidates.

"There is a disillusionment with state action and with fat-cat capitalism," says Lord Young. "People want to do more than just set the world

the organisation a certain number of days a year."

In many ways, this idea of forming a school is old. Most great religious and philosophical figures, from Confucius to Jesus will be remembered for their innovative thinking. But it is easily forgotten that their lasting impact also reflected their talent as teachers, who created a band of loyal followers. So, back in the fourth century BC, Plato established his Academy, whose intention was to further his ideas. It was not destroyed until 900 years later and the concept was so successful it was revived in 15th century Florence by the Medicis, who sponsored Marsilio Ficino's influential Platonic Academy.

It has also long been common for the megarich to fund grand scholarships that reflect the donors' ideals. So the imperial legacy of Cecil Rhodes is given life by the Rhodes Scholarship which brings the elite from the corners of the old empire to study in Oxford. And the Harkness Fellowship sends graduates to the United States to convert them into Atlanticists in the image of Stephen Harkness, an oil millionaire whose legacy was designed to boost the Anglo-American relationship.

More recently, Paul McCartney employed some of his millions in trying to show would-be pop stars how to make it, by providing funding for his "Fame" institute, the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, which is based in his old, but now refurbished school.

Charismatic individuals have also often created enthusiastic followers. Keynes was just one of many successful university academics who have spawned schools of thought in their name. At the turn of the century there was a group known as the Milner Kindergarten, whose members had all been recruited in Oxford after the Boer War by Alfred Milner, British High Commissioner to South Africa. They became some of the great figures of colonial administration. Likewise Lord Rothschild, who started the Centre for Policy Studies, a Downing Street think-tank in 1971, nurtured acolytes such as Sir Robin Butler and William Waldegrave whose influence is only now on the wane.

It is also hardly surprising that figures such as Young, Roddick, Parkin and Porritt – for whom the Sixties were so important and formative – should have fallen on the guru concept. They have all been influenced by the mystics of the East.

But the creation of schools for policy evangelism chiefly reflects modern conditions and a disillusionment with other methods of trying to change society. Think-tanks have been fashionable for 20 years and those on the right enjoyed particular prominence until Demos, a centre-left think tank, stole the limelight in recent years. Yet it is arguable whether any of these organisations have really had much lasting influence. Their capacity to attract media attention can secure publicity for new ideas, but amid the din of new reports, studies and surveys it is hard to get yourself heard. And think-tanks have no clear way of implementing what they



propose. Since they are mainly political organisations, they depend on politicians taking up their ideas, an increasing problem in an era when politicians are declining in importance.

The history of think-tanks may well accord greatest success to the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs, which pursued the project of securing free markets and individual liberty from the state. It took 20 years before those ideas were generally accepted. But most other think-tanks have tended to be not much more than the intellectual outsiders of the prevailing political shift, be it Thatcherism or Blairism.

"A major problem is that the debate think-tanks provoke tends to fade away," says Lord Young. "Unless ideas are quite remarkable they are always overtaken by events. There are not many moments like the production of the Beveridge report, when the timing was perfect. So only very remarkable pieces of work, like C P Snow's on the 'two cultures', will last. Whereas, if you actually start something which is a vehicle for the idea, then it becomes like a book unfolding. The book is being rewritten every year. At the end of the year, it may look very different from the beginning. But it carries on. That's why organisations that are about action and not just thinking have more of a feel of the future."

Martin Jacques, who helped found Demos in 1993, agrees that the creation of new schools may become more common. "If you want to embed your ideas more deeply in a sector, then influ-

encing a small set of people who will carry the ideas forward can make a big difference. It could be that we are seeing a hybrid growing up which is midway between the old style mass movement and the more flighty promiscuity of think-tanks, organisations where you are producing both new thinking and developing practitioners in the same colleges."

He also sees the new schools as both a challenge to and sign of the inflexibility of universities. "The universities are too cut off from society and not good at creating common borders with society." In contrast, he thinks that the new breed of schools is connecting academic thinking with real life.

The success of such institutions will, however, depend on how much their founders are able to inspire students rather than simply create a fan club. "These people will need to be liberated as autonomous movers and shakers. They will be failures if they are just clones," warns Ted Wragg, Professor of Education at Exeter University. "Fortunately, gurus are not usually worth cloning. And certainly Michael Young, whom I regard as one of the great figures of the century, would be horrified at the idea of anyone being quite like him. The same goes for Anita Roddick."

One of the greatest thinkers, Confucius, understood this danger well, warning, in almost Socratic manner, against indoctrination. "If, out of the four corners of a subject, I have dealt thoroughly with one corner, and the pupils cannot find out the other three for themselves, then I do not explain anymore." The new gurus of the Nineties should take note.

6 Greens will no longer be tunnelling. They will be squatting highly paid, responsible jobs

of newspapers alive for a day with an idea. They want to make a go of these ideas."

Each of the new schools is modelled on the practical curriculum offered in business schools. So they focus on placing students for most of the course in major organisations. The recent graduates of the Forum for the Future, for example, worked variously in several government departments, briefing ministers, in the BBC, Tesco's, with the leadership of the political parties, in the City and on newspapers, bringing their environmental expertise in exchange for inside knowledge of powerful institutions.

"With any luck the camaraderie of those who attend our school will survive," says Lord Young. "In fact, we will make it a condition of becoming a Fellow of the School that graduates promise to commit themselves to help

And you thought inner cities were bad?

This is a village story.

One evening last December Mrs Heather Edgvean-Driscoll, 49, of Kites Hardwick in Warwickshire, was approaching the pretty hamlet of Dunchurch, near Rugby, behind the wheel of her Land-Rover Discovery. According to a following taxi driver, Mrs E-D was driving "erratically" when – all of a sudden – she overshot a bend, hit a bollard and careered into The Old Forge, a nearby cottage. The airbag on the driver's side inflated, leaving an encumbered Mrs E-D to guess what her next move should now be.

Alas, she guessed wrong. Throwing the vehicle into reverse, she backed – at speed – into The Old Dairy, a half-timbered property and the idyllic domicile of Mr Peter and Mrs Jennifer Trewwen. Such was the force with which the Land-Rover connected with The Old Dairy, that the vehicle smashed entirely through one wall and came to rest 7ft inside the living room. As ill luck would have it, it was into this very room but a few moments earlier that Mrs Trewwen had dashed, in order to see what the

commotion outside was all about. She very soon found out. Within seconds she was lying – badly cut – with her own central heating radiator on her legs – looking up at the back axle of Mrs E-D's four-wheel drive, and reflecting that this was as bad a piece of parking as she had encountered in her 52 years on the planet.

When the case came to court last week, several interesting aspects of the attitudes of those involved were highlighted. There was the ingenious barrister for the client's driving suggested "badly balanced wheels". True, he agreed, she had panicked. However, "If she was a woman of sturdier resolve", continued Mr Burbridge, "the handbrake would have gone on immediately. But she moved the gear stick and it went into reverse". Connoisseurs of the English language will enjoy the implication that the fatal move was the work of an autonomous gear stick, as well as the assertion that the use of the handbrake is an indication of a robustness of character.



David Aaronovitch

Then there was Mrs Trewwen, whose broken foot and cut leg led her to criticise the leniency of the judge in only banning Mrs E-D for three years, and ordering her to do 150 hours of community service. "She could have killed me and she's allowed to walk free. I've seen no sign of remorse, no apology."

This uncharitable view does at least stem from a proper observation of Mrs Edgvean-Driscoll, whose own comment on the affair was to argue that "the whole thing was inflated out of

proportion. I don't hit houses for a hobby," she went on. "I've got better things to do, you know, than go waltzing into people's front rooms."

This delightful tale serves once more to remind us townies that country people really are as different a breed as their recent demonstration in Hyde Park averred. They blend recklessness with a love of home in a way that city-dwellers find confusing, hunting the fox, coursing the hare, baiting the badger and belting around the lanes in their Land-Rovers at top speed and driving into each other's cottages. It's the kind of thing that villagers do.

Villagers. You only have to read the word "villagers" in a newspaper, and you know that someone is in trouble. In the same week that Mrs E-D appeared before the bench, reports also surfaced concerning the two lottery winners who have bought a nice house in a small village. In their garden they constructed a lovely children's playground, with walkways, towers, rope swings and slides, all made out of natural wood and costing £20,000; the sort of playground that graces many city parks to the

gratitude of child and parent alike.

And the villagers objected. "It looks like something out of *Tenko*," said one campaigner. So, where you or I might see a structure redolent with the memories of childhood adventure, the "villagers" see a Japanese concentration camp, reminding them of torture and death. This week it looked as though their pathetic campaign to tear down the climbing frame would succeed.

There are – it seems to me – two types of villager, both of them essentially insular and backward. At its extreme, the first is inbred, hostile, violent and determined to wreck the local ecology. The extreme version of the second – more recent income – is selfish, unreasonable and dedicated to obliterating any disturbances to their substantial ease. Both might easily unite to prevent the construction of a child's wonderland. And both deserve to have Mrs Heather Edgvean-Driscoll drive by their Old Cottage on a winter's eve.

Miles Kington is on holiday

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Offer also applies to spouses

The cost to society is so great it makes me dizzy

Polly Toynbee introduces James Humphreys, the student imprisoned for possession of cannabis and Ecstasy, who writes here from prison

James Humphreys will be out of prison next month, after a sentence that defies common humanity or common sense. I wrote about his case a couple of months ago – not because it was extraordinary, but because it is so common. Today he writes his own story from inside prison. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half years after police found cannabis and Ecstasy in his house. He shared with other Manchester students. Ecstasy is, absurdly, a Class A drug with a recommended sentence of three to five years. Luckily, the experience hasn't destroyed him, as these wry observations suggest. Nor has it turned him into a heroin addict, which is a real danger for anyone entering prison these days. Manchester University is going to take him back, which is a mercy.

But what was his sentence for? Prisons are full of minor drug offenders who should be serving community sentences. Processing one addict through the courts and jail costs an average £36,000 – yet many offenders will never get near a treatment programme. The prison population, at 62,000, is soaring out of control, while US research shows how every dollar spent on drug treatment saves \$7 in crime. All in all, some £48,000 has been wasted on James's case – a pretty ineffective skirmish in the "war against drugs".



James Humphreys: 'What is getting me through is family and friends'

Last June I was sentenced to two-and-a-half years for "possession, with intent to supply Ecstasy and cannabis." I was taking my turn to get it for my small group of adult, university friends and immediately took the blame and pleaded guilty. It was my first offence and I was under 21.

What is getting me through this sentence is having supportive family and friends, and I might have been driven completely insane if I hadn't managed to find some humour in my situation. This can be hard at times because prison is a relative wilderness for comedy. There is nothing funny about people having their lives wasted. But there is plenty of irony and things that make you go "humm". Sometimes my blood boils, the next minute it runs cold. Prison is a strange, often surreal, experience and quite a culture shock in contrast to the heavenly, chemical-fuelled university days that landed me here.

My first experience of prison was Strangeways, which has undergone vast improvements since the riots. For two weeks I was banged up on the induction wing with a Moss Side gangster, and, immediately, I was learning the art of armed robbery and how to sell drugs without being caught. Now, after a year, I have amassed comprehensive, nefarious skills ranging from how to steal a car and counterfeit fraud to how to get away with murder in three easy steps. The otherwise uneventful first two weeks were punctuated by the IRA's attempt at landscaping the centre of Manchester. I

was in an ideal position to watch the mushroom cloud from my room with a view. I soon had a cell with a TV and ensuite toilet, but room service was terrible. The staff were rude and kept insisting on searching my underpants for God knows what, and even wanted me to urinate into a beaker. I've never been so insulted in my life! I'd have to award Strangeways only two stars. Fortunately, I was only there a month, but unfortunately, I was moved to Haverigg, which is a remote seagull colony in Cumbria. I suspect that the area is also the site of some terrible radioactive disaster judging by the range of morphological abnormalities sported by the local species.

I spent some time there on a billet of smack-head Scousers, who would steal my outgoing mail for the stamps. Many a night I fell asleep to the tranquil sounds of them vomiting in the toilets because they had had too much "loot" (heroin). Drugs are an omnipresent force in prison, actually cheaper and more easily available than on the outside. It is a sorely tempting route of escape and the source of the most violent disputes, as people get into debt. Not even one star for Haverigg, I'm afraid.

If you are good in prison, you get to a place like the one I am at now, a Category D prison, which is definitely five-star. I get temporary release in the form of home leave on a regular basis, and there is no fence to speak of. There is even a public footpath running through the grounds. I am a person again.

I'm on Education at the moment, which completes the illusion of prison being like boarding school, especially being woken up by the sound of a bell (incidentally, the bloke who rings the bell is in for ringing stolen cars). In "art and craft" I am surrounded by gangsters and yardies, who sit there going "Bloodclot!" and "Badboy!", and calling all women "bitches", while making cuddly toys for their girlfriends. It still makes me angry to see so many people inside who shouldn't be. The social ramifications and the cost to society are so great I feel dizzy just thinking about it. I mean, when, for instance, are we going to stop jailing people for cannabis? The only person who has died from that in 20,000 years was killed when a half-ton block landed on his head. Anyway, I have been feeling more like myself recently, as my release date approaches. The election has especially cheered me up, mainly because my nemesis, Michael Howard, is now powerless. I had the privilege of Anne Widdecombe coming to see my cell on a prison visit in the dying days of the Tory leadership, and now even she has turned on him. Perhaps there is some hope for the human race, after all.

Can it be wrong to 'black up' for Othello?

by David Lister

A remarkable event is taking place at the National Theatre this week – a production of Shakespeare's *Othello*. The National's new artistic director, Trevor Nunn, says he is keen on rediscovering neglected classics. Well, *Othello* is certainly one.

This new production is the first at the National since Paul Scofield played the Moor in 1980. At the Royal Shakespeare Company, where one might expect the play to be performed every few seasons, Ben Kingsley starred in the last main-house production, in 1985. There have been assorted *Macbeths*, *Hamlets* and *King Lear*s in the intervening years at both companies. But the fourth of Shakespeare's great tragedies has become the play that dare not speak its name.

To the consternation of directors, actors, audiences and students who have *Othello* as an examination text nearly every year, one of the most famous works in the English language has become a victim of political correctness. The heads of our national companies have been too scared to put it on.

The reason, of course, is the fear of outraging liberal opinion by having a white actor "black up". And with an apparent shortage of black actors well known enough for the role, the play is simply neglected. The RSC did put on a studio production a few years back with the gifted black opera singer Willard White in the title role. Yet, though Mr White was publicised as being a talented actor, in addition to his undoubted international reputation as a singer, he has not taken a straight stage-acting role since.

Last year, the RSC's artistic director, Adrian Noble, who is desperate himself to direct the play for the first time, made an approach to black Hollywood film star Morgan Freeman to play Othello in Stratford-upon-Avon. But it was rejected. Few Hollywood agents are likely to allow their clients to spend a year working at the pay rates dictated by British subsidised theatre.

So the RSC, the company set up to perform Shakespeare's plays, will continue not to stage one of his most important, powerful and poetic works. The National, for the first time in 17 years, is at last staging the play. David Harewood, a young black actor, may prove to be a triumph in the title role. But, let us be honest, no white actor with a similar background would be playing the lead in a Shakespeare tragedy at the NT. Harewood, 32, has never yet acted in a national company or West End play, but has starred in British regional theatre and in *Antony and Cleopatra* off



Great white Othellos, from left, Gielgud, Domingo, Scofield and Olivier. Inset, David Harewood, the National Theatre's choice

Broadway. Meanwhile, the role is barred at the highest level to every white actor in the country. Many would argue that there is a good reason for this. Namely, that it is offensive to black people to see a white actor put on dark make-up and pretend to be black. Not only is it politically and culturally offensive, with hazy memories of *The Black and White Minstrel Show* with its Uncle Tom

Shakespearean kings (Fiona Shaw as Richard II and Kathryn Hunter as King Lear, most recently).

We also live in an era, thank heavens, of more multiracial casting than ever before. Audiences for Shakespeare are at last becoming colour-blind. Black actors and actresses play Plantagenet princes and princesses. There are still not enough on stage, but qualms

the NT were filled with sleeping bags as the queues built up to see the next night's performance.

But time has added a politically incorrect dimension to Olivier's performance. The comedian Harry Enfield has parodied it. And the present National Theatre director, the brilliant Richard Eyre, described Olivier's performance as "barely risible". That

Institute at Birmingham University, says: "There is a large element of political correctness in the feeling that it's somehow wrong to cast anyone but a black actor in the role. I think myself something is lost by it. The play deals in the paradoxes of black and white. Iago is white outside but 'black' inside... Further, it's a great shame to deprive white actors of one of the most demanding roles in the repertoire. I would like to see Brian Cox in the role, for example."

Others argue that the ideal position is for many more black actors to gain sufficient experience and stature to be able to play the role. We certainly need more black actors and actresses at every level. But this, too, misses the point – that Othello is a role that should be a career peak for every performer.

Theatre can have enormous social and political impact on our lives. But it remains a performance. It should not be bedevilled by the pressures of political correctness. And the National's current *Othello* must not be the last for yet another decade by our national companies. It is time to reclaim this play for regular performance, and by our greatest actors, be they black or white.

No one has ever criticised Placido Domingo at the Royal Opera House. Why is a white man singing the role permissible, but acting it beyond the pale?

gestures: it is also offensive because Equity has a disproportionate number of unemployed black actors on its books. How gallant it would be for them, let alone the black community as a whole, to see a white actor transform himself into a black man. It is a powerful argument. But the theatre is not real life. It is a place for artifice, which depends on disguise and dressing up. The disguising of a white actor for the role of the Moor is a 400-year-old tradition. Tradition does not justify something that is morally wrong. But is it really morally wrong to do this in the sphere of acting, where pretence is of the essence?

about naturalism have all but faded.

Except when it comes to this one role. This self-imposed reticence on the part of white theatre directors – significantly not provoked as far as one can tell, by any requests from the black community – means that we do not have a chance to see leading, experienced, white actors take on one of the most challenging parts, or indeed enable those actors to measure themselves in theatrical history against earlier Othellos, including Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud.

Perhaps the root of the trouble lies with Olivier. His portrayal of Othello for the National Theatre in the Sixties, which I was privileged to see at a very young age, was a magnificent and memorable triumph. The streets outside

most certainly was not the view of audiences at the time.

Another puzzling aspect of this debate is that no one has ever criticised Placido Domingo, who blacks up regularly at the Royal Opera House to sing in Verdi's *Otello*. Why is a white man singing the role permissible, but acting it beyond the pale?

In academic circles there is growing unease with the bar on white actors playing the part. Professor Stanley Wells, director of the Shakespeare

The traveller foils a Cornish conspiracy

"Go to Land's End," said Mrs Downey, who ran the Penzance guest house. "You probably won't like it. But you'll be able to say you've been." I sat at the little table in the corner of my pink and blue ruffled bedroom (only the ceiling was painted landlady white) and thought as I ate my full English breakfast, sausage included. I was supposed to be setting off for Wales, having previously decided not to bother with this south-westerly extremity of the British Isles. It was only a bit of cliff like any other, after all.

Everyone was telling me not to go. The woman behind the counter at the railway buffet in Liskeard where I had arrived in Cornwall had said it wasn't worth the effort. So had the man in the ticket office. "Mind you," he said somewhat sullenly, "I don't much like the scenery round here anyway. I wasn't born here." He added, as if that explained everything, "He was from Devon and had only come here when he was 12. That was over 30 years ago, but he clearly still saw himself as a foreigner. He wasn't going on holiday this year: he was saving up to go to New England to see the Fall in 1998. Now that was real countryside. I wouldn't bother with Land's End if I were you."

Collin Lawry had been more than indifferent. "It's been spoiled," said Cornwall County Council's only Mebyon Kernew (Sons of Cornwall) nationalist. He had two objections – economic and aesthetic. "It's been turned into a tourist theme park," he said. Tourism was all well and good in its place but it had serious disadvantages. "It is vulnerable to the weather. It provides jobs which are part-time, low-paid and seasonal. It

makes great demands on infrastructure – hospitals, roads and so on – which are funded only on the basis of the resident population without taking account of visitors." And it distracted policy-makers from better alternatives. "You should go somewhere else," he said.

With such a united front telling me to avoid the place there was only one thing to do. I set out for Land's End. It was partly contrariness, partly because giving way to whom is one of the joys of travelling. Changing our plans is part of what creates the sense of freedom which only the most hardened determinist could call an illusion.

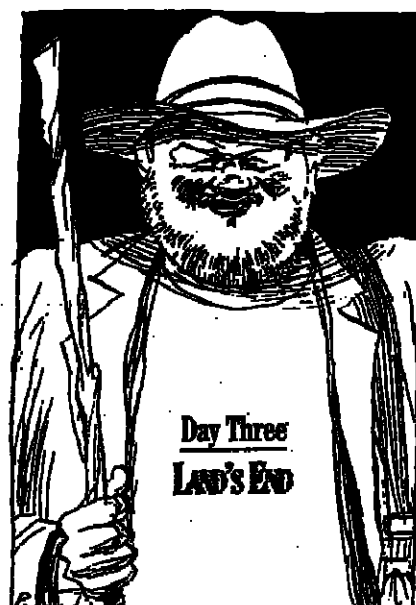
But the Cornish conspiracy was formidable. As I left my digs an almost empty bus whizzed by. Land's End, said the destination board. At the nearby bus-stop the timetable said there was not another for an hour. But just then a taxi approached. I flagged it down. "Follow that bus," I said to the driver.

The driver was called Big John. Originally from Birmingham, he had come down to Cornwall two decades before and bought a hotel. "The Cornish couldn't make a go of it, but I did," said the burly man, lighting up a cigarette. But he had recently sold up and taken to taxiing.

"Where's the bus going?" he asked. I told him. "I'll take you direct for a tanner." I looked up. The bus had disappeared from view.

"OK." I was going to have a look, because, I told him authoritatively, Land's End had been spoiled. "Bollocks," said Big John. "And you can print that. Do you know how many people worked there, in the car

A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLELY

park and pub, in the old days? Ten. Today there's jobs for 110. These Cornish nationalists are all just wallys."

It looked like a funfair as we approached. The old white hotel on the cliff edge seemed to have grown unnatural appendages – a fairground tower, a circus big top, a shopping mall, a Disney-style pirate ship and a real life trawler. But the theme-parkery was restricted to a fairly confined area; there was no entry fee, and the car park cost just £2 for the whole day. And only the churlish could object to the sentiment behind the local paper obit-style of the homely legend at the gate:

Take nothing but photographs
Kill nothing but time
Leave nothing but footprints.

For £19.95 you could get a family ticket for entry to everything except the Bash Street Circus. Inside, the families were queuing to enter the Deep Sea Quest submarine experience (not suitable for the under 3s, pregnant ladies or persons with back, neck and heart disorders). I passed by and entered the Smuggler's Cavern whose only treasure was in its fruit machines. Aimlessly I wasted £1. Opposite, the families were queuing for The Relentless Sea multimedia experience.

I turned my back on the queue and went in search of the real thing. The cliff-top paths were almost deserted. They ran, steep, sandy and slippery to the cliff edges. Over a rope bridge, past 150ft sheer drops on which kittiwakes could be seen close up, feeding their young, I picked my way amid the pillars of granite. Their vertical faulting had been eroded to look like the ruin of some heroic man-made construct.

Among the crevices, patches of heather were in bloom and flowers

clung to the bare rock – tiny saxifrages, pendulous little white campanulas and the pink thrift beginning to turn to brown. The sea was a heaving, restrained swell which broke powerfully, but without violence, on the rocks below where cormorants or shags perched nonchalantly amid the spray.

The height was heady. As I clambered along the ledge to the furthest rock it felt perilous. It was a real place after all.

And more than that it was a place to start from. Between the hotel and the cliffs is a photographer who for £5 will snap you next to the official Land's End signpost. Its arms say:

Isles of Scilly 28 miles
John O'Groats 874 miles
New York 3,147 miles

On the fourth arm you can letter in the name of your home town and the appropriate mileages. (The photographer has a comprehensive chart of distances.) Nearby are photos of expeditions setting out from there to Everest or to cross the Sahara. On the fourth arm, as I passed, a man was entering the name Pudsey. There is something about places where we can start and finish. They have the same attraction as the impulse which creates art. Order shaped from chaos. A beginning and an end fashioned either side of an otherwise random slice of time. They create the sense that human beings can make themselves masters of their own destiny. We can take control of some part of the seamless stream of our lives.

Suddenly, only now, I was seized with the conviction that my tour of these islands had properly begun. I set out to find the double-decker bus to Penzance.

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Eugene Shoemaker

Eugene Shoemaker was acknowledged by most scientists as the father of planetary geology.

Shoemaker discovered that meteorite and cometary impact is a major process in the solar system. This discovery revived the largely discarded geological concept of catastrophism, which holds that short-term catastrophic events help shape the surface of the planets and on Earth have contributed to species extinction, and thus to evolution. For this concept, Shoemaker will be remembered as one of the more important geologists of the 20th century.

The recognition of impact as a significant geological process allowed the establishment of the widely held hypothesis that a major meteorite impact caused the extinction of dinosaurs and many other life forms, and that major impacts threaten the earth in the future – a matter of concern today both to civil defence authorities and screenwriters.

Shoemaker was headed by both sides during the Cold War, when he warned that a large impact could be mistaken for a nuclear explosion. His articulation that impact is a continuing process was graphically demonstrated to the world in 1994, when the comet Shoemaker-Levy, discovered by Shoemaker and David Levy, broke into pieces that crashed spectacularly into Jupiter.

Gene Shoemaker was concerned with both the process of impact and the population and flux of objects in the solar system (asteroids, comets, and meteoroids) that can impact planets, especially the Earth. To this end, he studied the geology of, and counted the density of, impacts on the Earth and the Moon, and looked for comets and asteroids through the telescope and calculated their orbits. As a team, he and his wife and co-worker, Carolyn, discovered 32 comets and 1,125 asteroids, which is a record.

Shoemaker was interested in the Moon at an early age and his ambition was to be a geologist-astronaut on the Moon, but Addison's Disease prevented this, much to his chagrin. He was giving talks on the geology of the Moon in the late 1950s, although many other geologists considered this odd, to say the least.

He realised that the geology of the lunar surface could be interpreted in terms of stratigraphy, that is in terms of sequence and correlation, one layer upon the other, and very early recognised the importance of impact and volcanism in surface processes. He began the systematic mapping of the Moon by telescope. Using impact crater density and assumed impacting body fluxes, he established a method of determining relative age and approximate absolute age for the lunar surface. His methods of planetary geology are used today in studying other bodies in the solar system.

Shoemaker established the Branch of Astrogeology at the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona; its buildings and their occupants are a living memorial to him. He was involved in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa's) early unmanned lunar exploration, and headed the Lunar Geology Team for the lunar landing on Apollo 11. He resigned that position from subsequent Apollo missions because he was unhappy with the relative lack of emphasis by Nasa on science. This was courageous, as studying the Moon was his great love. During the Apollo programme, Shoemaker played an important role in training the astronauts before they went to the Moon.

Gene Shoemaker was active in many other areas of geology (Colorado Plateau geology, uranium deposits, paleomagnetism and others), and in each of these he would have been distinguished had he done nothing else.

Shoemaker was born in Los Angeles in 1928. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1947 and 1948 respectively, and a PhD from Princeton in 1950. His professional life was spent with the US Geological Survey (USGS), except for three years as Chairman of the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences from 1969 to 1972. He retired from

the USGS in 1993, but the retirement was only in name.

Many honours, medals, and awards deservedly came to him. Some of the more important are the US National Medal of Science (the highest scientific award in the US), the Bowie Medal of the American Geophysical Union, several honorary doctorates from US universities, membership in the US National Academy of Sciences, and the Day Medal of the Geological Society of America.

Gene Shoemaker was unusual among scientists in that he took time to educate the public about the excitement of planetary geology and the impact process through highly articulate lectures and television interviews. He also was a wonderful mentor to students; he was just as happy talking science with a young student as with a distinguished colleague. He was an excellent scientific supervisor when it came to enthusiasm, inspiration, and critical review, but left a lot to be desired when it came to the pushing of papers and observing bureaucratic protocols. He was loved for this failing as he was for his inspiration of others.

Shoemaker was eminently decent and simple. His scientific ethics were an example to all, and his wonder at, and the fun he got from, his science were infectious. Most things were fun to him, even, with his wife, building his house in Flagstaff from volcanic rock. He laughed at many things and he clearly enjoyed the magnificent trip he was on in Australia when he was killed. The vehicle he was driving crashed into a truck in a desolate country north-west of Alice Springs. (His wife was injured and is recovering in the Alice Springs Hospital.)

His modesty, exuberance, and warmth endeared him to his colleagues around the world and the thousands who knew him through his lectures.

A memorial service will be held on the rim of Meteor Crater, Arizona, the impact structure on which he did his first definitive work. The date has not been determined.

Robin Brett
Before the lecturer had as much as uttered a word, a slide went up portraying a spectacular group of assorted dinosaurs, writes Tam Dalyell. The scene was the George Street lecture hall of the Royal Society of Edinburgh on 21 February. The distinguished audience derived mainly from Edinburgh's three universities, and the British

Geological Survey. After a pause, Eugene Shoemaker said with a twinkle, "Comets and asteroids – they are the reason why we are here, and our dinosaur friends are not!"

For the next couple of hours Shoemaker riveted academic, scientific and not easily impressed Scotland. We learnt that there are a million objects in the universe like the one that flattened vast stretches of the Siberian forest: that it was a damn close run thing that Halley's Comet did not hit the Earth 1,000 odd years ago; that there was a near miss in 1770 by probably a matter of a mere 4.5m kilometres, astronomically a short distance. Chances of a 10mm-long comet hitting the Earth were one every 105,000 years, of a 20cm-long comet one every 475,000 thousand years, of a 150cm comet hitting the Earth one every 100 million years.

Whatever these figures, Shoemaker has been responsible for the resurgence of interest about the possible risk to Earth from Doomsday asteroids and wayward comets.

Over dinner in the Prestonfield House Hotel Shoemaker regaled Peter Cook, the Director of the Geological Survey, Geoffrey Bolton, Professor of Geology and DNA Science at Edinburgh University, and our wives with his dreams of being an astronaut himself, sadly unfulfilled by a medical condition.

Cook had first met Shoemaker in 1965 in Flagstaff, Arizona, the home of astrogeology. "I was deeply impressed at that time," says Cook, "by the quality of his science and his dedication, enthusiasm and charisma. These same personal qualities were critical in persuading the Nasa to make geology a major part of all its lunar and planetary programmes."

Eugene Shoemaker deserves to be remembered for far more than being immortalised by giving his name to the spectacular crash into Jupiter of Shoemaker-Levy.

Above all that night in Edinburgh proved that he was a magical stimulator of scientifically well-founded ideas.

Eugene Merle Shoemaker, geologist; born Los Angeles 28 April 1928; geologist, US Geological Survey 1948-93; Chief, Branch of Astrogeology 1961-66; Chief Scientist, Center of Astrogeology 1966-68; Acting Director, Nasa Manned Space Sciences Division 1963; Research Associate, California Institute of Technology 1964-68; Professor of Geology 1969-85; Principal Investigator, Apollo lunar landings 1965-70; married 1951 Carolyn Spellman (one son, two daughters); died near Alice Springs, Australia 18 July 1997.



Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collides with Jupiter – an image from the Hubble Space Telescope, 18 July 1994. Photograph: Space Telescope Science Institute / Nasa / Science Photo Library

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Faith Jaques

Faith Jaques was one of the outstanding illustrators responsible for the renaissance of British picture books during the last three decades. Her special gift was an ability to translate the emotional tone of a text into the strong visual atmosphere created by her pen-and-ink drawings. Coming to colour comparatively late she was equally adept here, illustrating texts she was now writing herself. *Tilly's House* (1979) – the story of a Dutch doll – was her first picture book as author and illustrator, and still remains one of her best.

Born in Leicester in 1923, Jaques was a prodigious reader and artist as a child. Leaving grammar school at 15, she went to Leicester College of Art in 1941-42. Its stern commitment to anatomy, perspective and the study of the histories of architecture, furniture and costume was to stand her in good stead in the years to come.

A spell with the WRNS got her away from a home she had for some time outgrown. Her new duties included control of a filing department containing over a million photographs, holiday snaps included, of Germany and Occupied Europe, with particular attention given to pictures of coastlines and village approaches.

In London after the Second World War she attended the Central School of Arts and Crafts on a grant so low she was forced to lodge in a Salvation Army Hostel for her first six months. Part-time art teaching and many commercial commissions were to follow, including over 500 drawings for the *Radio Times*, such an important patron for all artists over many years. It was only by 1968 that she had enough confidence to abandon teaching for full-time book illustration.

Her brilliance soon found many outlets, including Royal

Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1967), although more recent editions are illustrated by Quentin Blake. She also provided meticulous artwork for Hugh Evelyn's multi-volume *History of Costume* (1966-70). The hard work this entailed was meat and drink to an artist who, in her own words, always believed that "information sparks imagination, and sound drawing underpins creative flight".

One of the distinctive characteristics of Faith Jaques's book illustrations is the sensitive and creative way they complement an author's text. In Nina Bowden's classic children's novel *Carrie's War* (1975), we know for example that Carrie and Nick get off their train at a small Welsh railway station. In Jaques's cover illustration, we see all the extra details as well: a porter's trolley, a shabby arcade and diminutive waiting room and in the background,



Jaques: meticulous

coal tips and a working mine. More significantly, the two young evacuees are pictured standing on the platform very much as they are feeling at that particular moment in the story: small, isolated and uncertain what to do next. Later on, their glum host Mr Evans, up to that moment an unattractive character, is drawn crouched by

his kitchen fire. Once grimly forbidding, he now looks shrunken and dejected. This reflects the moment in the text when both children come to feel sorry for him despite his many faults.

Lucky the author with such a faithful and intelligent interpreter; other writers who benefited from her skills included Philippa Pearce, Allan Ahlberg, and Henry Treece. Leon Garfield was another beneficiary, with Jaques's illustrations for his *London Apprentice* series (1976-78) among her finest work. Long out of print, these must inevitably become collectors' items if they are not so already.

In 1987 Jaques left London for Bath. By now she had also done much to improve the shaky rights of freelance artists faced by the indifferent might of some of the big publishers. As Douglas Martin writes in his 1989 study of British illustrators, *The Telling Line*:

No other individual can have achieved more on behalf of the professional community in matters of such as establishing the artist's ownership of original drawings, the right to sell them after an agreed period, and the right to a continuing interest in the ongoing commercial success of an edition to which they had made a substantial contribution.

Towards the end of her career she also branched out with a brilliant series of cut-out picture books. The best of these is *The Village* (1983), a model crammed with everything imaginable for sale and radiating the affectionate warmth with which this artist was always able to surround favourite objects and people without every straying into the type of sentimental mawkishness she so fiercely despised.

Nicholas Tucker
Faith Heather Jaques, children's book illustrator and artist; born Leicester 13 December 1923; died 12 July 1997.

Kunihiro Kodaira

A natural bent for mathematics can be seen at all levels of daily life in Japan. In fish and vegetable markets, sellers top up figures at high speeds; calculators are too slow and clumsy for them. Children practice the soroban (abacus) and partake in nationwide competitions, in which their ability triumphs over the computer. Japan has produced many mathematical geniuses, none more renowned than Kunihiro Kodaira. But their excellence in that branch of science finds recognition abroad rather than at home, especially when they work in the field of pure mathematics.

Certain younger mathematicians, after emigrating to major

American universities, played a significant part in the almost never-ending progress of finding a solution to Fermat's theorem, a task in which they were encouraged by the much older Kodaira. This problem had baffled scholars of number theory ever since the mid-17th century, when Pierre de Fermat first posed it in a scribbled note in the margin of one of his books. Amir D. Aczel's book *Fermat's Last Theorem: unlocking the secret of an ancient mathematical problem*, clearly and elegantly written, was deservedly one of the best-sellers when it was first published in the United States in 1996. It reads like a brilliant thriller.

Among Kodaira's "disciples" involved in the solving of this theorem were Goro Shimura and his close friend Yutaka Taniyama, who were both at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies with Kodaira, and posited the Shimura-Taniyama conjecture that was an important step towards the solution of the problem. There was a good deal of rather underhand infighting among the contestants for the honour of being the first to discover the answer, particularly among ambitious and highly gifted French mathematicians and this may have contributed to Taniyama's suicide on his 35th birthday. Certainly all the re-

searchers were under very great strain and Andrew Wiles, who eventually cracked the formula almost by accident after years of struggle, spent the previous months in a nervous daze.

Modern Japanese mathematics may be said to date from the founding in 1877 of the Tokyo Mathematical Society. One of its latest fruits is *Sugaku Jiten* (1985), published in English in 1990 as *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Mathematics*. Kodaira played a prominent role in its editing and publication.

He had already published a large number of books and scholarly papers on such themes as harmonic analysis, differen-

tial operators, complex analytic manifolds and above all algebraic geometry, a field in which he helped Japan to become a world leader. He was the first Japanese to be awarded the prestigious Fields Medal, and another of his students, Shigefumi Mori, won the same distinction in 1990 for solving problems in the classification of three dimensional algebraic varieties.

Another of the younger mathematicians, Heisuke Hironaka, won the Fields Prize in 1970 for research into algebraic manifolds and the resolution of singularities in analytic spaces. Much of this innovative work would not have been ac-

complished without Kunihiro Kodaira's exemplary ground-breaking work.

Kodaira took a degree in Mathematics at Tokyo University in 1938 and followed it with a degree in Physics in 1941. In 1944 he became an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at his Alma Mater. After the Second World War, Japanese mathematicians despaired of any kind of official advancement in Japanese academe and soon there was a steady "brain drain" in all fields of scholarly endeavour to Europe and the US. Kodaira got the call from Princeton in 1949 and was one of the first Japanese to take up a post there. He became a ba-

Rhydwen Williams

Rhydwen Williams was a writer of prodigious, even prodigal talent who, contrary to the Welsh literary stereotype, wrote mainly about industrial and urban South Wales, in particular the Rhondda Valley where he was born, a miner's son, in 1916.

His trilogy of novels, *Cwm Ffynnon*, generally thought to be his finest achievement in prose, is based on the story of his own family over three generations, and has some claim to be the most outstanding example in Welsh of the *roman-fleuve*. The first, *Y Briddas* ("The Wedding", 1969) deals with life in the Rhondda in his parents' day, from 1900 to 1915, when the valley was a cauldron of industrial unrest which was to boil over in the Tonypandy Riots of 1910.

In *Y Siol Wen* ("The White Shawl", 1970) he described the General Strike of 1926 and in *Dyddiau Dym* ("A Man's Days", 1973), the economic depression which ravaged South Wales in the 1930s. These events are seen through the eyes of the author's Uncle Sion, a poet and thinker who turns against the chapel and the Lib-Labbery of William Abraham (Mabon), the Rhondda miners' leader, to embrace socialism and the ideals of the South Wales Miners' Federation, only to find disillusion and bitterly opposed to the materialism of the Labour Party and the hegemony of its local representatives.

Williams's birth and family background in the Rhondda, the most famous of the coal-bearing valleys of South Wales, marked him indelibly and, although he was to spend the years from 1931 to 1941 away from the valley, notably at Christleton in Cheshire, to which his parents had moved in search of work and where he was intensely unhappy, it was to the Rhondda that he returned in his imagination and there, in 1941, that he was given his first pastorate – at Aimon, a Baptist chapel in the mining village of Ynys-hir.

His five years at Ynys-hir were the making of him as a poet. Hitherto he had worked at a variety of menial jobs and studied intermittently at the University Colleges of Swansea and Bangor. A conscientious objector on Welsh Nationalist grounds, he had served for a while with a Quaker ambulance unit during the bombing of Liverpool. Of a rebellious nature, he was often in trouble with his denomination on account of his pacifism, political nationalism, unorthodox theological views, and Bohemian life-style. He had a fondness for good wine, expensive restaurants, fast cars, the theatre and good company into old age, and his profligate attitude to money was legendary. But the call to the Christian ministry had always been strong in him and, blessed with good looks and a voice that were compared with Richard Burton's, he became a powerful preacher and a gifted reader of poetry on the Welsh Home Service of the BBC.

His development as a poet was encouraged through his friendship with the Cadwgan Circle, a coterie of Welsh writers and intellectuals who included Gareth Alban Davies (later Professor of Spanish at Leeds), J. Gwyn Griffiths (later Professor of Classics and Egyptology at Swansea) and Pennar Davies (later a distinguished theologian and Principal of the Independents' College at Brecon and Swansea). They met at the Griffithses' home at Pentre in the Rhondda, where they discussed contemporary European literature and, in particular, the need to liberate Welsh literature from the puritanical shackles and lyrical niceties imposed on it by the eisteddfod tradition.

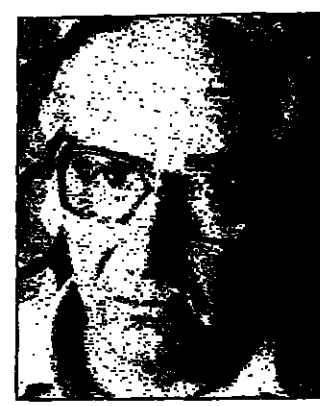
What Williams learnt in these discussions was to prove more important to him than the scant formal education he had received. Huxley, Orwell and Auden were among his heroes. He

was also a close associate of Katherine Davies, the dramatist and pioneer of the Welsh Nationalist cause in the Rhondda.

Although Williams was always more than a mere eisteddfodic writer, and was usually ready to poke fun at the Eisteddfod's conservative standards and more absurd rituals, it was at the National Eisteddfod that he first came to prominence as a poet. He won the Crown competition in 1946 with his poem "Yr Arloeswr" ("The Pioneer") and again in 1964 with "Y Ffynhonnau" ("The Springs"). The second of these, a long poem in the free metres (the Chair is awarded for a poem in the strict metres), is about tradition and its renewal in Rhondda society, and many readers have found it the most moving and memorable of all his works. He published nine volumes of verse, including one in English, and his *Collected Poems* appeared in 1991.

Leaving Ynys-hir in 1946, he held pastorates in Resolven and Pont-llw in the Swansea Valley for the next 13 years, and spent another at Rhyl on the coast of North Wales. While at Pont-llw he had the pleasure, at a local eisteddfod, of presenting a recitation prize to the young Sian Phillips.

But he then turned his back on the Baptist ministry and accepted an invitation to join Granada Television in Manchester, one of the first ministers to find a career in the new medium. There, on shoestring budgets, he produced trail-blazing Welsh-language programmes in which his gifts as impresario and broadcaster were allowed to flower. He also wrote television scripts, one of which, about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was shown in Germany, the first Welsh-language television play to be



Williams: rebellious. Photograph: Jeff Morgan

broadcast on a foreign network.

Besides his trilogy, Williams published seven other Welsh novels between 1972 and 1988, and one in English, including *Breddwyl Rhonabwy Jones* ("The Dream of Rhonabwy Jones", 1972), a light-hearted send-up of the Assembly of Bards of the Isle of Britain, of which he was a life member by virtue of his having won the Crown; *Apolo* (1975), set in the world of television before Cardiff became known as "media city"; *Ameri Wyllo* ("A Time to Weep", 1986, for which he won the Daniel Owen Prize), about the Senghennydd Explosion of 1913, the greatest pit-disaster in the annals of British mining; and *The Angry Vineyard* (1975), a fictional account of the Merthyr Rising of 1831 and the execution of Dic Penderyn, "the first martyr of the Welsh working class".

From 1980 to 1986, despite suffering a stroke in 1981 which physically incapacitated him for the rest of his life, Williams edited the current affairs magazine *Barn* ("Opinion"), bringing to it his journalistic flair, wide reading and keen interest in music and the visual and performing arts. A volume of his autobiography appeared as *Gornellon* ("Horizons") in 1984.

Meic Stephens

Robert Rhydwen Williams, poet and novelist; born Pentre, Glamorgan 29 August 1916; married 1943 Margaret Davies (one son); died Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan 2 August 1997.

DEATHS

COOK: Biddy, formerly of Redcliffe Road, peacefully in her sleep on 1 July, aged 85 years. Eldest daughter of Dr L.R. Cook of Woodford House, Woodford Green, and Dorothy Furness Hall of Clifton. Buried privately in Clifton. No flowers, but donations to Clifton Cross Hospital if desired.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

HEWLER: Anne Dorothea Hatt, OBE JP MA (née Baker), born 28.7.16, died 2.8.97, widow of Professor Tom Hewler, formerly of Vine House, Henbury, Bristol. Family funeral on 8 August. All friends and admirers invited to a Celebration of her life at Goldeney Hall, Clifton, Bristol, on Sunday 7 September at 2.30. Donations, not flowers, to A(U) Community Association.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr David Allan, disc jockey, 58; The Right Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, 62; Mr Greg Chappell, cricketer, 49; Mr Neil Clarke, chairman, British Coal, 63; Professor Herbert Elvin, former Director, London University Institute of Education,

92; Mr Matthew Evans, chairman, Faber and Faber, 56; Sir Ian Fraser, former chairman, Lazard Bros, 74; The Right Rev Andrew Graham, Bishop of Newcastle, 68; Mr Kenneth Kendall, broadcaster, 75; Sir Kenneth Large, chairman, Securities and Investment Board, 55; Miss Sue Lloyd, actress, 58; Mr Owen Luder, archi-

tect, 69; Dame Ella Macknight, gynaecologist, 93; Mr Matthew Parris, journalist, 48; Mr Nick Ross, broadcaster, 50; Mr Alexei Sayle, comedian, 45; Mr Philip Snow, author, 82; Mr Roger Stott MP, 54; Mr Erik Tonsch, chairman, Trafalgar House, 51; Mr John Young, chairman and chief executive, Young & Co's Brewery, 76.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen's eldest son, Prince Charles, is to marry the Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Anne, at Windsor Castle, on 24 July. The King's eldest son, Prince William, is to marry the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, at Westminster Abbey, on 10 June. The Queen's youngest son, Prince Edward, is to marry Sophie Rhys-Jones, a television presenter, at Windsor Castle, on 19 June.

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to DM4bn. Over the past three years the automotive division has set up 15 manufacturing plants outside Germany, continuing Siemens' strategy of shifting production from its high-cost home base.

Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens' UK operations, is expected to hail today's news as the latest indication of the company's commitment to its UK manufacturing base. It is the first acquisition since Siemens bought the historic Parsons steam turbine company from Rolls-Royce this year for £30m.

The investment will dispel some doubts about Siemens' commitment to further UK expansion, following concern expressed by Mr Gehrels last year over the former Conservative government's approach to the single European currency.

One small step in rates, one big dilemma for BoE

COMMENT

'Booming consumer demand and rapidly shrinking export demand are pulling in opposite directions. In the circumstances it would take a brave committee indeed to hammer borrowers with a big increase in the cost of their loans'

The five members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee who get to vote on interest rates this morning have had no shortage of advice about how far they should go. Not surprisingly, the advice from City commentators and the like ranges from those for whom the three quarter-point rises since 1 May have been enough to those who think rates will have to go all the way to 8 per cent.

Since last month there has been more evidence of happy consumers keeping the economy bubbling at a pace of growth above its long run trend. There has also been more evidence that export orders have dropped sharply, and that will show up in actual export volumes sooner or later - probably during the autumn.

There has been nothing decisive enough to alter anybody's previous opinions about whether the economy is at risk of boom or at risk of recession. The fact that the MPC has already raised rates for two months running without any clear impact on demand therefore suggests it will do so again. Apart from anything else, the Bank will want to show forecast inflation firmly in its target band in next week's Inflation Report.

A separate, and slightly less well-rehearsed, question concerns how much it should increase rates if it is going to. One school of thought says it would be better to get the pain over with all at once so the currency markets stop looking forward to future increases. If it is the expectation of

rising rates that is driving the pound higher, remove the expectation and some of the pressure will be taken off sterling.

However, if the currency markets have already priced in the expectation of say, 7.5 per cent interest rates, it will not make much difference whether that expectation is validated in three small moves or one big one. Indeed, a big move might just be counter-productive if the markets concluded that the Bank was much more concerned about the inflation outlook than anybody had realised, and marked future interest rates and the pound still higher.

There are two advantages in sticking to smaller increases. One is that early and small rises might mean the interest rate peak will be lower than it would be otherwise. If it strengthens the opinion that the Bank is "ahead of the curve".

The other is simply that there is a lot of uncertainty about the economy. The two big events - booming consumer demand and rapidly shrinking export demand - are pulling in opposite directions and nobody has much idea how strong each will be.

The argument against quarter-point increases is that they have little or no dampening effect on consumers, particularly when so many households are now on fixed-rate mortgages of one sort or another. But in the circumstances, it would take a brave committee to hammer industry with a big increase in its borrowing costs as well and thereby increase the risk of tipping the economy into

recession some time next year. It's hard to see the MPC setting about winning the hearts and minds of the British people this way.

Sir Peter's glasnost pays dividends for the Pru

Prudential policyholders will, one day, have a lot to thank Tony Blair for. The Prime Minister's close relationship with Sir Peter Davis may well be one of the reasons for the Pru's new face of sweetness and light in the face of the pensions mis-selling scandal.

To spot the difference in attitudes, one need only compare and contrast the attitudes of Sir Peter and his predecessor as chief executive, Mick Newmarch, to this thorniest of problems.

First, there was the insistence three years ago that no mis-selling had taken place, a claim that it was happy to advertise in the national press. Then there was the admission that, yes, there may have been some problems after all, requiring the Pru to set aside an undisclosed sum to compensate a few unfortunate individuals. Finally the Pru admitted yesterday that the episode may cost it £450m - twice the level of previous provisions.

All this may appear to overshadow another good six months' results from Prudential, with operating profits at £442m up 19 per cent on the same period last year. Yet to take this view would be to unnecessarily

separate Prudential's new glasnost with the commercial strategy enunciated for the company by Sir Peter 18 months ago.

Happy for him, and his shareholders, Sir Peter's rehabilitation of the Pru, now the subject of a rather different advertising campaign, appears to be paying dividends. And in the process, the rewards for good citizenship have begun to seep through.

Long shots for a stock market listing

Spot the business: it is prone to violent swings in profitability, it is afflicted with a star culture which results in spiralling wage bills, its best performers can command huge golden hellos, its senior managers tend not to last long and it is dominated by a handful of big names. No, not investment banking. Welcome to the world of football.

High finance and soccer go together these days. The Deloitte & Touche annual review of football finance, published yesterday, also makes a persuasive case for why neither business is terribly well suited to a stock market listing. In 1995-96, only Manchester United, of the Premiership clubs, made any serious money. The rest lost £80m between them and the league as a whole ended up with a deficit of £98m. NatWest Markets would be proud of them.

Three quarters of clubs in the Premier League lost money, the main culprits being

spiralling wage bills, extravagant transfer fees and ground improvements.

And yet the 18 clubs which have so far taken the plunge and joined the stock market now have a capitalisation of £1.36bn which puts some of them on a rating which would make the eyes water even in a biotechnology company.

Fortunately, reality, or perhaps sanity is beginning to sink in. Anyone with a spare £1,000 could have doubled their money if they had invested it early last season in the six clubs that were then listed. By contrast, the six flotations since the end of March this year have all fallen below their issue price.

Football, like merchant banking, is, as they say, a funny old game. Hard to predict and harder still to know whether next year will bring the jackpot or relegation.

Where investment banking has the edge on football, however, is that in bull markets everyone tends to do well. In soccer, only one club can win the League or the FA Cup.

The advent of pay TV has brought in vast sums of new money and made incomes a little more predictable. Even so, the share-out is still geared to success on the field and there remains a gulf between what the cream of the Premiership and the rest of the league can earn.

None of this will stop the most determined clubs from floating. But as food for thought, Deloitte's soccer annual makes better reading than any match programme.

Cadbury on acquisition trail after flat profits

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Cadbury Schweppes said it was considering acquisitions for its confectionery business yesterday as it announced flat half-year profits affected by the strong pound and tough competition in the US.

John Sunderland, chief executive, said: "In confectionery, the top six companies have less than 50 per cent of the market, so there are more opportunities there than in beverages where the top three [Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Cadbury Schweppes] have 80 per cent-plus."

He said the company hoped to do one of two confectionery deals a year of around £100m-£200m each though none were under consideration. "The larger deals are just not available," he said.

Cadbury Schweppes' profits for the six months to 14 June were distorted by the sale of its half-share in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages which was completed in February. That deal added a net £417m to the total, though stripping out disposal gains and the impact of the strong pound, half-year profits rose by just 2 per cent to £236m.

Currency fluctuations knocked £146m, or 8 per cent, off Cadbury Schweppes sales in the period and £16m or 6 per cent from profits.

In the US, where the group has been battling against intense competition from Coca-Cola and Pepsi, total drinks volumes were 1 per cent higher with the

Dr Pepper brand acquired outstripping market growth with a 4.3 per cent rise in volumes.

Seven-Up, Cadbury's lemon and lime drink, continues to suffer from increased marketing by Coca-Cola's rival Sprite brand. Seven-Up sales fell by 2.2 per cent in the half though Cadbury said the rate of decline was slowing. Coca-Cola has reported a 4 per cent volume growth of Sprite though Cadbury claimed Sprite sales growth was slowing. "We're in it for the long haul," Mr Sunderland said.

One analyst said: "There is a feeling that things are not as gloomy in the US as some had feared though we will get bouts of adverse news from America."

Greenfield investments in markets such as Russia, China and Poland continue though the loss in Russia was £4m higher. Sales have improved in Russia but continue to be hampered by low disposable income among consumers. The company said the operation should break even in three years.

In the UK total profits rose by 8 per cent to £41m despite the UK business recording a £5m loss. This was due to the sale of the CCSB stake which means the company now only gains franchise income while the UK business also supports a disproportionate amount of the cost structure. UK Dr Pepper sales rose 50 per cent though this was from a low base.

Group sales fell by 18 per cent to £1.88bn. The 5.5p interim dividend is being paid as a foreign income dividend. The dividend was increased by 5.8 per cent.



Dickson Poon: South-east Asia-bound with the outfitters to New York's elite in his pocket

Photograph: FT

Poon ties knot with Brooks

Magnus Grimond

Dickson Poon, the Hong Kong multi-millionaire credited with revitalising the Harvey Nichols stores group, is turning his hand to Brooks Brothers, outfitters to New York's upper classes.

Mr Poon's Dickson Concepts International has signed an exclusive 10-year franchise deal with Brooks, an offshoot of Marks & Spencer, to open at least 20 stores in South-east Asia. He said yesterday the first outlets in Hong Kong would be selling Brooks' button-down collar shirts and American-cut suits next year.

Joseph E Gromek, president and chief executive of the US group, said Dickson had been chosen because of its "retail experience with prestige brands and expertise with real estate". The deal covers most of South-east Asia, except Japan and South Korea.

It comes just after Mr Dickson's \$247m (£154m) rescue of the bankrupt Barneys, another US retailer, and was just one of a swathe of agreements announced by Mr Poon yesterday, encompassing everything from French perfume to Ferrari cars.

The Hong Kong-based retail group already owns the rights to sell a range of well-known brands, including Polo, Rolex, Hermes and Bulgari. The latest signings mean it will open 100 more shops in South-east Asia this financial year, taking its international chain to over 350 outlets.

The deal with Ferrari will involve using the brand, a legendary name in motor racing for 50 years, as a "retailing concept", Mr Poon said. "It is intended that a retailing concept be developed around the Ferrari spirit which will combine a complete retailing offering of lifestyle merchandise and interactive attractions."

Separately, Dickson Poon's French subsidiary, ST Dupont, has signed a licence agreement with Inter Parfums to produce and sell a range of perfumes under the ST Dupont brand.

The announcements came as Dickson Concepts revealed that net profits rocketed 241 per cent to HK\$1.35bn (£107.2m) in the year to 3 March, mostly as a result of a HK\$901m gain from the flotation of Harvey Nichols and ST Dupont.

Operating profits rose 23 per cent to HK\$635m.

Boom in exports restricted to western Germany

Inure Karacs
Bonn

German unemployment rose again last month, with 132,000 people joining the dole queue. The seasonally adjusted figure was up by 17,000 to 4.396 million, or 11.5 per cent of the workforce.

The only glimmer of hope in the steadily climbing curve was in the west, where unemployment fell slightly. This was attributed to an export boom, which has brought more bene-

fit to traditional western industries than to the construction-dominated east.

Labour market statistics are unreliable in the summer, because of the distorting effect of holidays in the 16 Länder falling at different times. But the latest statistics, published yesterday by the Federal Labour Office, confirmed a pattern of weakening activity in the east and growth slowly picking up in the west.

Driven by the low German mark, exports are booming,

benefiting the industrial heartlands of western Germany. In the east, however, the construction sector continues to shrink.

"Growth is divergent in the jobs market," admitted Bernhard Jagoda, president of the Labour Office. "There is an increasing discrepancy between west and east Germany. The jobless rate in western Germany now stands at 9.8 per cent, while in the east it is at 18.2 per cent."

The gap is still widening. Ac-

cording to figures issued this week by the Economics Ministry, conditions are in place for a strong recovery in the west, while the east is plunging back into recession. The ministry reported that orders had risen in June by 1.5 per cent, projecting an annual growth rate of 2.25 per cent this year. All the upswing is forecast to come from the west, however.

"The problem with eastern Germany is that too much of what is produced there is not exported," Mr Jagoda lamented

yesterday. His comments were seen as a tacit admission that exports remain Germany's only salvation, highlighting the importance of the low mark to the economy.

The latest figures are expected to focus attention at the Bundesbank, the governing council of which is meeting next Tuesday. There is speculation that the Bundesbank plans a small interest rate hike in order to stop the mark's fall but doing so might damage the country's export-driven recovery.

There are no plans in the pipeline to ease conditions for industry or improve the labour market. The Kohl government's plans to reform taxation and the pension system, thus easing the burden on employers, were sunk last week by the opposition-controlled upper house of Parliament.

Even the agreed cut in the "solidarity surcharge", which pays for east German reconstruction, has run into funding problems.

Diane Coyle, page 19

Woolwich prepares for £800m spending spree

Clifford German

Woolwich is likely to spend up to £800m of spare capital on acquisitions rather than handing it back to shareholders, analysts said yesterday.

The former building society had earlier said it was considering how to use the surplus cash and would put proposals to shareholders next year.

Woolwich increased headline profits in the six months to the end of June by 13 per cent to £214.5m, just beating the forecast it made when announcing conversion details. But the new bank spent £26.7m

on converting from a mutually owned building society to a bank, reducing the profit before tax to £187.8m and the increase to just 2.5 per cent.

Most of the improvement in headline profits was due to a reduction in the level of bad debts and a drop in operating expenses. Operating income was only 2 per cent higher at £395.4m and interest income was almost unchanged at £302.2m after deducting the cost of special offers which doubled to £30m.

Income from commissions, fees and other sources grew by 9 per cent to £93.2m. Their con-

tribution to operating income as a whole rose from 22 to 23.6 per cent of operating income.

Fees from insurance rose to £30m, while those from the investment side of the business, especially unit trust management, increased to £24.6m. Lending fees increased to £15m, while the estate agencies and surveying side earned slightly less than last year at £23.1m.

Woolwich's share of the new mortgage market, almost 10 per cent a year ago, fell to 4.6 per cent as it cut back on its special offers.

Investment column, page 16

Boots shows its hand and joins card wars

Nigel Cope

Boots the Chemists has become the latest retailer to join the loyalty card battle with the launch of its Advantage card. The card, which has been on trial in East Anglia and the South-west for the last two years, will be available across the country from 1 September.

Boots claimed its use of smart card technology would give its loyalty scheme an edge over those of rival retailers. Each card will carry a computer chip enabling holders to redeem points instantly against purchases made in any of Boots' 1,260 stores.

The card will cost Boots

£52m over three years though it hopes to achieve a sales uplift of 4 per cent by the end of the financial year 1998-99 which would make it self-funding. It forecasts 8 million members by September next year.

Robert Miller, retail analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said the smart card technology would give Boots "pretty potent information" on its customers' shopping habits.

Boots the Chemist managing director Steve Russell said the card would make it easier to offer additional functions including medical or health insurance. He denied a possible move into banking but said a credit card was an option.

Peters resigns from One 2 One to return to the US

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

One 2 One, the smallest of the four mobile phone networks, yesterday stunned the industry by announcing the departure of its managing director, Mr Peters, after just a year in the job. Ms Peters, 45, is returning to the US to run MediaOne, the cable group owned by One 2

One's joint shareholder, US West. The UK company stressed that the job, as chief executive of the third-largest cable empire in the US, was a promotion which Ms Peters could not turn down. She was flying to the US last night on what was described as a "house-hunting" mission and was due to leave the UK business at the end of next month.

The news came as a complete surprise even to close followers of the company, who have watched its customer base and marketing campaign expand since Ms Peters was appointed in June 1996.

Just a fortnight ago she was giving presentations to analysts outlining One 2 One's aggressive strategy, including the first pay-as-you-go digital mobile

service to be launched on Monday.

One suggestion was that the move could cause a rift between One 2 One's shareholders, US West, and Cable & Wireless. Relations between the two groups have been shaky in the past, with US West apparently unwilling to sell its 50 per cent stake in One 2 One to enable C&W to combine the company with its main

UK telephony operation, Cable & Wireless Communications.

Ms Peters was credited with turning round One 2 One's position in the UK, growing customer numbers from 410,000 to more than 700,000 with a big advertising campaign and new tariff structures. The company recently borrowed a further £1.2bn to complete the roll-out of its UK base station network.

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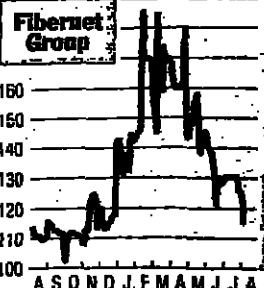
market report / shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100	5026.2	+65.6
FTSE 250	4517.3	+18.7
FTSE 350	2400.8	+27.4
SEAQ VOLUME	989.2m shares	
50,335 bargains		
Gifts Index	96.84	+0.09

Share spotlight

share price, pence



Blue-chip profits spur Footsie across the 5,000 line

MARKET REPORT
CATHY NEWMAN

Footsie did not just break records as it soared above the 5,000 mark yesterday: it did so in style. Once the index cruised into uncharted territory shortly after 10.30am yesterday, it did not stop to look back, powering ahead to 5027.7 in early afternoon, and closing just a fraction lower at 5026.2, up 65.6 points.

The main driving force behind Footsie's romp was another raft of strong company results, and a emerging belief that the Bank would not increase base rates today even though recent economic data points to the need for a further hike in the cost of borrowing.

Thoughts of a delay in raising rates were clearly evident on the foreign exchanges. Sterling fell to 3.01 against the German mark, down around 5 pence.

A batch of exporters revelled in sterling's decline, with the likes of TI Group, up 20p to

574.5p, putting on a spurt. Other companies that have been hit by the pound's strength in recent weeks included Reuters, which closed up 23.5p at 686.5p, and Reed International, which reports results today, ending the day 18.5p better at 630p.

GKN benefited not only from the pound's antics but also its better-than-expected results. It was among the best Footsie performers, up 70p at £11.56. The company was helped by positive sentiment from SBC Warburg, which set a target price of £12, and buy notes from Charterhouse, Tiney and Credit Lyonnais.

GEC followed on GKN's heels, adding 18p to 379.5p, despite news that an executive director and former trade minister, Sir Richard Needham, was to leave. However, the defence electronics group was buoyed by news that GEC Alsthom's energy transport and



distribution division had received a large order for an electric turbine.

While investors were busily buying former sterling casualties, retailers and utilities – domestic stocks safe from the effects of a strong pound – were decidedly out of favour. Tesco, which had been wanted earlier in the week, dropped 6.5p to 427.5p, and Asda followed suit despite a buy note from Hoare Govett, losing 1.25p to end at 145p. Sainsbury – off 2p to 435.5p – and Safeway – down 1.5p to 392p – did not fare any better. WH Smith was preferred, up 8p in early trading, and closed up 5p at 354p. Well-worn rumours of a

takeover resurfaced, with one follower describing the retailer as a "sitting duck".

National Power led the Footsie fallers, though, off 15p at 524p, and PowerGen dropped 5p to 708p. Water stocks were again looking washed out, with Thames Water, poorer by 8.5p, closing at 776.5p. Severn Trent was also trickling away, losing 15.5p to 834.5p.

Oil and water certainly did not mix yesterday, as oil continued its rally after British Petroleum's results earlier in the week. BP, encouraged by buy advice from Societe Generale and BZW, jumped 30p to 891.5p, and Shell, due to report today, rose 15p to 473p.

Buyers were supping up Cadbury Schweppes, up 16p to 611.5p, after results roughly in line with expectations. However, analysts were not unanimously in favour, with Hoare Govett saying it was under-valued, but Societe Generale advising investors to reduce.

Two banks reported interim results yesterday. Standard Chartered and the Woolwich. Both met City expectations and Standard rose 32.5p to £10.38, while Woolwich added 5p to 297p. Barclays was back in favour again, richer by 50p to close at £13.28, and HSBC Holdings continued its heady ascent, up 57.5p to £23.09.

Bahalf was less in demand, sliding 1.5p to 736.5p after NatWest changed its recommendation from hold to reduce.

First Leisure, the bingo to nightclub group was also in the doldrums, losing 9p to finish the day at 296.5p. Merrill Lynch has advised investors to

reduce, although an analyst visit next Thursday could help to revive the stock.

Petra Diamonds, the mining group which is quoted on AIM, ended 7p better off at 115.5p, after announcing that it had won 10,000 square miles of diamond concessions in north-eastern Angola.

Vocalis, the voice recognition and call processing specialist, improved 6p to 64.5p after signing deals with nine telecoms equipment suppliers.

Viglen Technology, the personal computer group spun off from Amstrad, continued to languish, down 3.5p at 61.5p. And the purchase of two Kiss dance stations by radio group Chrysalis failed to woo investors. The stock closed off 2.5p at 562.5p. Network Technology, the AIM-quoted network connectivity specialist, which announced that it had applied for admission to the full market, closed unchanged at 162.5p.

While blue chips are basking in sunshine, there is a dark cloud hanging over some of the small technology stocks. Fibernet Group is a case in point. The company, which supplies and installs electronic networking equipment, optical fibre and copper cabling systems, reached a year high of 184.5p in the spring, but closed down 4p at 116.5p yesterday amid growing concerns over earnings growth for the sector.

Dealings in Metek Group were suspended at 40p after the company, which provides computer support services, said receivers would be appointed to wind up its Web Corporation division. Metek bought Webb in December. Metek said in May it would announce a "significant loss" for the first half of the year to the end of June because of a difficult trading environment.

Taking Stock

Chanc
dream

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights = Ex-dividend = Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market = Suspended = Partly Paid on NI Paid Shares = 2 AM Stock

The Independent Index			
The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0800 123 333, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0800 123 333 by one of the two-digit codes below.			
FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	FTSE 250 - Real-time	01
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05
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Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21
Privatisation Issues	04	Water Shares	30
Electricity Shares	31	Electronics Shares	40
High Street Banks	41		

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000
Shell	1000	BP	800	British Airways	600	British Telecom	500
British Airways	500	British Telecom	400	British Petroleum	300	British Gas	200
British Petroleum	200	British Gas	100	British Airways	50	British Telecom	40

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index
09.00	4960.0	11.00	4980.0	13.00	5000.0	15.00	5020.0
10.00	4970.0	12.00	4990.0	14.00	5010.0	16.00	5030.0

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Shell	473.0	+15.0	1000	BP	834.5	+15.0	800
BP	834.5	+15.0	800	British Airways	297.0	+50.0	600
British Airways	297.0	+50.0	600	British Telecom	776.5	-8.5	500

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	776.5	-8.5	500	British Petroleum	708.0	-5.0	400
British Petroleum	708.0	-5.0	400	British Gas	145.0	-1.25	300
British Gas	145.0	-1.25	300	British Airways	611.5	+16.0	200

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	611.5	+16.0	200	British Telecom	686.5	+23.5	100
British Telecom	686.5	+23.5	100	British Petroleum	630.0	+18.5	50
British Petroleum	630.0	+18.5	50	British Gas	427.5	-6.5	40

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	427.5	-6.5	40	British Airways	574.5	+20.0	30
British Airways	574.5	+20.0	30	British Telecom	562.5	-2.5	20
British Telecom	562.5	-2.5	20	British Petroleum	524.0	-15.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	524.0	-15.0	10	British Gas	392.0	-1.5	10
British Gas	392.0	-1.5	10	British Airways	354.0	+8.0	10
British Airways	354.0	+8.0	10	British Telecom	300.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	300.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	296.5	-9.0	10
British Petroleum	296.5	-9.0	10	British Gas	290.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	290.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	280.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	280.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	270.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	270.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	260.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	260.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	250.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	250.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	240.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	240.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	230.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	230.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	220.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	220.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	210.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	210.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	200.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	200.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	190.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	190.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	180.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	180.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	170.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	170.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	160.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	160.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	150.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	150.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	140.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	140.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	130.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	130.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	120.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	120.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	110.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	110.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	100.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	100.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	90.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	90.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	80.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	80.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	70.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	70.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	60.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	60.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	50.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	50.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	40.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	40.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	30.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	30.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	20.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	20.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	10.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	10.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10
British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10	British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
British Petroleum	0.0	+0.0	10	British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10
British Gas	0.0	+0.0	10	British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10
British Airways	0.0	+0.0	10	British Telecom	0.0	+0.0	10

Chances of the single currency dream crumbling? About 40%

The scourge of the continental economies, mass unemployment, is showing no signs of improving. Yesterday's figures from Germany mean total joblessness there has risen by nearly half a million during the past 12 months. This is a terrible economic trauma, yet the financial markets have begun to fret about the possibility of an increase in German interest rates following hints from Bundesbank dignitaries that the German mark has been falling too fast. It is the kind of discussion that makes the rest of us wonder whether participants in the financial markets live on the same planet as the rest of us. The German economy needs higher interest rates like a hole in the head. The speculation about a rate increase co-exists with the widespread conviction that because of the need for a lavish application of fiscal funds for European Monetary Union to start on time, the single currency will be a "soft" currency. This is the explanation analysts give for the weakness of the German mark and strength of the pound, which is expected to stay out at first.

Whatever planet the currency traders come from, it is not Mr Spock's logical Vulcan. These two views – continental interest rates are rising, the euro will be a soft currency – are mutually inconsistent.

Of course, it is unfair to pretend that the same people hold both simultaneously. There is a difference of opinion in the market about the outlook. But if enough people come round to the idea that the Bundesbank might just start raising interest rates some time in the next six months if the economy picks up a bit more and the mark stays very weak, and more importantly, to the realisation that the new European Central Bank will be just as tough as the Bundesbank, there could be a sudden readjustment of currencies.

When that happens, sterling's fall will prove as dramatic as its ascent. Britons travelling abroad this summer should make the most of the 10-franc, 250-peseta pound.

Predicting timing is foolish and dangerous if you are not paid to do it, so I won't. But the correction could be sudden. There are straws in the wind. The newly published monthly EMU publication from investment bank Paribas warns that euro interest rates are likely to be well above current German interest rate levels, and warns: "The market as a whole may be in for a nasty surprise."

Paribas economist Paul Mortimer-Lee argues that interest rates across the Continent are artificially low to compensate for the extremely tough government budget policies in the increasingly futile effort to hit the Maastricht target for deficit levels. After the start of EMU, governments will no longer have to keep tightening fiscal policy to the same degree year after year.

This will coincide with the new central bank taking over the responsibility for setting interest rates. No matter how narrow or wide the membership, whether the tax Italians are cut or in, the cost of borrowing will be set by an unelected, unaccountable collection of central bankers who can set their own inflation and money-



Diane Coyle

The two views that continental interest rates are rising and the euro will be a soft currency are mutually inconsistent

targets. Whatever the politicians want, it is difficult to see why the European Central Bank would allow the new euro to be a soft currency. However, even as more people in the financial markets come round to this way of

thinking, there remain some fundamental problems in assessing the outlook for the single currency and how to price financial assets accordingly. This autumn will mark the start of a crucial phase: politically, and the uncertainties are huge.

It is hard to find any expert who is really certain that they know how it will all turn out. Which countries will be in, which left out, and what the repercussions will be. Whether the start date will be postponed, and whether a postponement would be credible or seen as a dressed-up abandonment of the project. Whether it might be abandoned anyway. What the result of regional German elections next spring and Federal elections in the autumn of 1998 will be – as the chart shows, public opinion in Germany is among the most Euro-sceptic there is. In the face of all these unanswerable questions, there is a new flurry of interest in scenario planning, assigning probabilities to different outcomes and figuring out what the implications would be.

A new book by the respected journalist David Smith looks at the broad economic picture, of which EMU forms only a part. He concludes that the most likely outcome is that the EU will muddle along successfully, with a cure single

currency which is gradually broadened. He puts the likelihood of this outcome at just over one in three, with a small chance that the economic outlook for the single market and single currency are realised. However, that means that the probabilities of the less attractive outcomes, ranging from a two-track Europe which might break up to total economic disaster, add up to more than one in two.

David Marsh, European analyst at the investment bank Robert Fleming, assigns probabilities to three types of outcome in a recent circular: EMU starting on time; a constructive postponement; and an indefinite postponement. The first option gets only a 25 per cent rating, with a narrow EMU slightly more likely than a wide EMU. He sees a 35 per cent chance of a delay that is politically acceptable and believed by the markets, with EMU starting in 2001-2002. However, the chance of the project crumbling in various ways is highest, at 40 per cent. He sees either lack of credibility in the markets, a Franco-German row or a wide EMU collapsing soon after it starts in 1999 as the most likely reasons for the ending of the single currency dream.

Of course, these scenarios can help financial markets in deciding how to rate the separate currencies now. But even the pessimists who think EMU more likely to collapse than to go ahead will have to carry on brooding about it and planning for it. When Europe gets back from its summer holidays (no doubt cursing the hordes of British tourists, flush with cash thanks to the exchange rate), German electioneering gets under way, and the political horse-trading becomes really serious, the uncertainties will increase before they start to diminish.

'Eurofutures' by David Smith

Cadbury's FD has his sweet dreams cut short

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Spare a thought for David Kappler, finance director at Cadbury Schweppes. There he was last asleep in the early hours of yesterday morning, when at around 2 o'clock his phone went. Somehow, Cadbury's annual results had just popped out on the news wires. The figures were due to be announced at 7.30am – how could such a price-sensitive announcement have gone wrong?

A Cadbury's spokesperson explains: "It was an over-enthusiastic employee in Australia who took the results to the Sydney Stock Exchange and handed them over too early. The man who usually does it was away. It was a pure accident."

The chocolate to fizzy drinks group is listed in Sydney and New York as well as London, and the head office routinely gives its results to its colleagues a few hours in advance. At 7.30am London time, London phones the others and the figures are revealed. Or so the theory goes. And is the poor person who prematurely delivered the results still in a job? A Cadbury's spokesperson murmured: "I couldn't possibly comment."

You know you thought accountants were boring? Here's incontrovertible proof. If such were needed. Nearly half of the UK's finance directors (49 per cent) take work with them on holiday.

This supremely depressing statistic was compiled by Reed Accountancy Personnel and was published in this week's *Accountancy Age*, the bean counter's *Beano*.

One particularly sad FD is quoted in the survey saying: "I enjoy my work and like sitting by the pool with my laptop enjoying the sunshine." Oh, for goodness sake, someone throw his laptop in the pool.

Earlier this year a Reed survey found that 37 per cent of FDs don't take their full yearly allocation of days off. The latest survey found



Sch... David Kappler needs a restful night now

that 9 per cent of the 200 FDs surveyed always take work on hols, with 17 per cent saying "sometimes" and another 17 per cent saying "not often". Apparently new technology, such as mobile phones and laptops, makes fiddling with spreadsheets that much easier while you're sunning yourself *sur la plage*.

Some other FD thoughts: "It's a good chance to catch up on things you never get around to doing in your normal working week." Good grief. Pass the Sangria...

Looking for a job? Deutsche Morgan Grenfell is offering a package "north of a hundred" to candidates for the Number Two UK Spokesman job underneath Marcus Will, spin doctor-in-chief at the investment bank. The previous incumbent, James Murray, took himself off to NM Rothschild recently, and DMG's boss Michael Dobson has commissioned the City head hunters Odgers to find a replacement.

I hear that the search has fallen to Victoria Provis at Odgers, the head hunter who was responsible earlier this year for plucking Terence Collis from the ranks of Lowe Bell Financial to become chief spokesman of NatWest. There's still time to

get your CV in – the search has only just started.

These are uneasy times for Ramon Fajares, chief executive at the Savoy, which has suffered a spate of mice sightings recently. The plush hotel owned by Granada may have just gone through a £7.2m refurbishment, but on Tuesday a correspondent of this very paper was a witness to a rodent escapade.

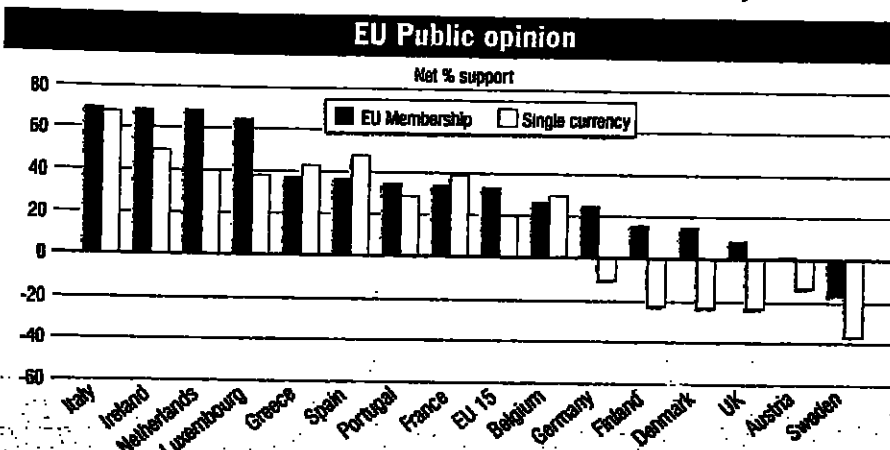
The occasion was dinner with some high-powered company executives. What could be more civilised? Imagine my colleague's surprise, however, as the party sipped drinks outside the famous River Room, only to be confronted by "a small but well-fed mouse, which scuttled out from some curtains and disappeared into a sea of chair legs in the restaurant".

I'm told the Savoy staff reacted very calmly – which makes one wonder just how regular an occurrence this is. A spokesman for the Savoy says that "it is very unpleasant but it is not a big problem".

He says that the Savoy is a large old building, and they do get an occasional sighting of mice. The company recently called in a pest control company to sort the problem out, he says. "We hope the new measures will have [the problem] completely under control very soon." So does my colleague.

While I was writing about John Mayo's defection from Zeneca to GEC this week I mentioned a former colleague of his at investment bank SG Warburg, another chap also called John Mayo, whom I said was a former senior partner of the City law firm Freshfields. The latter was in fact a former senior partner of the City law firm Linklaters & Paines.

John Willcock



Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot
US	1.601	21.49	61.69	1000	0.3335
Canada	2.257	71.46	209.20	13539	32.31
Germany	3.002	97.40	288.27	16765	39.38
France	3.333	104.20	320.80	18278	43.43
Italy	2.919	92.14	275.07	16077	38.38
Japan	90.37	104.00	307.32	18180	42.51
Australia	1.503	45.31	135.94	10204	25.47
Belgium	61.979	21.35	59.31	36770	78.74
Denmark	114.32	340.20	1019.00	73398	18.15
Netherlands	3.393	105.51	315.30	1715	43.42
Ireland	1.161	8.22	22.36	14346	3.719
Spain	16.34	380.20	990.80	7758	14.12
Sweden	25.31	107.20	320.80	16153	35.51
Switzerland	2.447	114.05	328.38	15298	34.33
Austria	2.078	35.34	102.17	13978	32.51
Hong Kong	12.384	34.31	102.17	13978	32.51
Malaysia	2.257	25.35	75.05	22580	40.50
New Zealand	2.257	25.35	75.05	22580	40.50
Saudi Arabia	6.046	37.33	109.10	37503	6.8
Singapore	2.359	49.44	153.11	14720	35.53

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot
Argentina	1.601	0.9998	0.9998	63200	0.3335
Australia	2.1780	1.3997	1.3997	0.3851	0.3335
Canada	1.7063	1.0649	1.0649	64.620	0.3335
China	8.2773	8.2000	8.2000	26.500	0.3335
Egypt	5.4380	3.3975	3.3975	19.000	0.3335
France	6.8019	3.5965	3.5965	3.640	0.3335
Germany	3.3232	2.2000	2.2000	5.8070	0.3335
Greece	4.8928	2.2580	2.2580	4.750	0.3335
India	57.825	35.750	35.750	26.700	0.3335
Kuwait	4.4989	0.3527	0.3527	3.971	0.3335

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium. *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates

UK	5.75%	Germany	5.75%	US	5.50%	Japan	5.50%
Base	5.75%	Discount	4.50%	Prime	5.50%	Discount	2.50%
Intervention	3.00%	Discount	4.50%	Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount	2.50%
Discount	2.50%	Prime	4.75%	Spain	4.75%	Discount	2.50%
Advances	2.90%	Discount	2.96%	10-Day Repo	5.25%	Sweden	100%
		Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	4.00%	Lombard	na %

Bond Yields

Country	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr	Country	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
UK	7.0%	7.25%	7.0%	7.5%	Netherlands	4.75%	5.75%	5.80	5.80
US	6.8%	6.11	6.25%	6.22	Spain	7.0%	5.2%	5.3%	5.34
Japan	5.6%	5.37	5.28%	5.30	Italy	6.25%	6.34	6.75%	6.77
Australia	10.0%	5.04	6.75%	6.41	Belgium	9.0%	4.86	6.25%	5.75
Germany	8.0%	4.86	6.0%	5.65	Sweden	13.0%	5.04	5.50%	5.54
France	4.75%	4.79	5.50%	5.61	EU OAT	6.0%	5.17	5.50%	5.57

Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK Sterling	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
Local Authority Depos	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
Discount Market Depos	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
Treasury Bills (Buy)	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
Dollar CD	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
EU Linked Debt	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%

Tourist Rates

£ Buys	2.1370	£ Buys	9.8880	£ Buys	2.4420
Australia(Dollars)	2.1370	France(Francs)	9.8880	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.4420
Austria(Schillings)	20.8500	Germany(Marks)	2.8610	Portugal(Escudos)	208.3000
Canada(Dollars)	81.2000	Greece(Drachmas)	463.8000	Spain(Pesetas)	248.7000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.8690	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.1600	Sweden(Kronor)	12.7700
Denmark(Kronor)	11.3380	Ireland(Pounds)	1.1010	Switzerland(Francs)	2.1300
Holland(Gulden)	3.2250	Italy(Lira)	2918.0000	Turkey(Lira)	25190.0000
Poland(Zloty)	8.2500	Japan(Yen)	169.0000	United States(Dollars)	1.5330

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	Open
Long Call	114.91	114.54	114.91	114.91
Short Call	114.91	114.54	114.91	114.91
Long Put	114.91	114.54	114.91	114.91
Short Put	114.91	114.54	114.91	114.91
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
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3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50
3 Mtn Euro	92.50	92.50	92.50	92.50

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement price: 5025	4550	5000	5050	Call/Put
Aug	11094	7340	4550	11094
Sep	11779	14910	11712	94150
Oct	22210	18210	18210	137177
Nov	28717	23717	20717	110181

Energy

Series	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	Open
Oil (Brent)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (WTI)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (Brent)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (WTI)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (Brent)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (WTI)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (Brent)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil (WTI)	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50

Commodity Indices

Index	Settlement	High/Low	Settlement	Open
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Oil	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price	Unit Trust	Price
ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00
ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00
ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00	ABN AMRO	1.00
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sport

Shockwaves of Sri Lanka's 952

In a match already wallowing in an ocean of runs and records, the most coveted standard of all cricket, Sri Lanka's 952, on the final day of the first Test against India, but Sri Lanka still had the satisfaction of surpassing a mark of far longer standing.

Jayasuriya fell for 340 after 25 minutes, 35 short of Brian Lara's highest Test score of 375, but when stumps were finally drawn on a match that yielded 1,489 runs and a mere 14 wickets, Sri Lanka, at 952 for 6, were well clear of England's 903 for 7 declared against Australia at The Oval that had stood since 1938 as Test cricket's highest team total.

It was irrelevant to the Test as a genuine contest, but the 30,000 afforded free admission principally to witness Jayasuriya reach his goal and packed into the Premadasa Stadium were euphoric. It was a further psychological flip to Sri Lanka's status as undisputed champions of the one-day game.

Upali Dharmadasa, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, said: "We had set ourselves the target of mastering Test cricket as we have the one-day variety by the year 2000 and our batsmen have to learn to occupy the crease, which is one of the secrets to success in the traditional game. This was a tremendous performance and means a lot to us in the development of a real Test team."

Yet, according to the former Australian captain Greg Chappell, here as a television commentator, such pointless results are only hastening the day when regulations governing Test cricket must be changed to ensure its survival.

"The groundsman prepared an absolute better, which did not offer an equal contest between bat and ball and you can't blame the batsmen for taking full advantage," he said.

"Anyone who makes 300 in a Test has got to have great skill and powers of endurance but the public is not going to come out to watch when they know they're not going to have a chance of a result."

On the first four days of the match no more than 3,000 spectators were in the ground and it was only Jayasuriya's

Tony Cozier witnesses the one-day specialists' intent to dominate Test cricket with a world record in Colombo

proximity to Lara's mark and the open gates that attracted a full house on the final day. Already there has been talk in this part of the world, not least from the new president of the International Cricket Council, Jagmohan Dalmayia, of streamlining Tests to prevent their demise.



Jayasuriya's innings of 340 ends abruptly

The crowd had come in their droves, carrying their drums, trumpets and flags – and their hopes and expectations. For most it was a mere formality for the popular Jayasuriya to add the 50 runs he needed to take his place at the head of the game's most illustrious batting list.

Instead their dreams were shattered within 25 minutes. In the twinkling of an eye both Roshan Mahanama, who had stayed with Jayasuriya for more than two days while adding 547, and Jayasuriya himself were out in the space of three balls.

Mahanama, the tall, correct right-hander, went back to Anil Kumble's top-spinner and was leg before for 225, the first and only such decision of the match and a courageous one at that by the umpire, K T Francis, himself a Sri Lankan.

An immediate hush enveloped the ground that had been enlivened by three fours from each batsman, and the stunned spectators had no time

to overcome their shock before Jayasuriya fell to the second ball of the next over, nervously prodding a catch to silly point from the off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan. It was the first chance he had given in 13 and a quarter hours at the wicket and, after the initial silence, he left to a rousing ovation.

All after that might have been a crushing anticlimax, but Aravinda de Silva and the captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, Sri Lanka's longest-serving cricketers and most attractive batsmen, were not going to waste a perfect batting pitch. They put on 175 in two and a quarter hours before Ranatunga ran himself out 14 short of his fifth Test hundred. De Silva would not be so careless and passed his 12th Test hundred before holding out to long-off for 126 once England's previous high total had been passed. Sri Lanka reached the 903 from 260 overs. England, for whom Len Hutton made 364, Maurice Leyland 187 and Joe Hardstaff Jr 169 not out, had taken 325.2 overs. Even in that, Sri Lanka could claim superiority but did it really amount to much?

History's highest Test totals

955	Australia v England, The Oval, 1950
909-5	Pakistan v India, Lahore, 1969-70
704	Australia v England, The Oval, 1934
703	Pakistan v England, The Oval, 1987
729-6 dec	Australia v England, Leeds, 1920
728-8 dec	Australia v West Indies, Kingston, 1954-55
700-3 dec	West Indies v Pakistan, Kingston, 1957-58
699	England v West Indies, Kingston, 1925-30
603-7 dec	England v Australia, The Oval, 1938
592-6	Sri Lanka v India, Colombo, 1997

R-RT	WKTS	TOTAL				SATS	L-WKT	R-RT
		9 5 2				7	924	
		B	O	R	W	14		
1	A-RANATUNGE	88					INDIA	
2	B-JAYASURIYA	340					143 S-TENDULKAR	
3	C-KATAPATTU	28					111 N-SIDHU	
4	D-MAHANAMA	225					07 M-MONGIA	
5	A-DE SILVA	125					88 R-DAVID	
6	M-JAYAWARDANA	86					126 M-AZHARUDDIN	
7	R-KALLITHARAN						00 S-GANGULY	
8	C-VASS						28 A-KUMBLE	
9	R-PUSHPAKUMARA						23 R-CHAUHAN	
10	M-MURALITHARAN						Y-PRASAD	
11	D-SILVA						N-KULKARNI	
	FALL OF WKTS.	38	615	615	780	821	824	
	BATSMAN	3	4	2	1	6	5	
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The scoreboard at Premadasa Stadium reveals the full extent of the home side's triumph

Photographs: AP

Cowdrey keeps Kent in the hunt

JOHN COLLIS
reports from Canterbury
Kent 203-4 v Essex

If county cricket could always be as it was at the St Lawrence Ground yesterday morning Lord MacLaurin could stop fiddling with the game. Although there was always a sweaty threat in the air, the advertised thunderstorms stayed away but thousands of supporters did not. They filled the stands and marquees for a festive match between teams who started the day two points apart and both in touch with the leaders, Glamorgan, in a Championship that remains intriguingly open. No further incentive was necessary to produce a keen contest.

Essex are playing without Mark Hott (bruised heel), Ashley Cowan (shoulder injury) and Nasser Hussain (higher things) while Kent's first-choice bowler Dean Headley is also at Trent Bridge with England. This afforded opportunities for the Essex fast bowler Steve Andrew to play his second Championship game of the season, and Kent's batsman Will House his first ever.

Trevor Ward launched the Kent innings as if he had in mind a score of Sri Lankan proportions. The loss, however, of Ed Smith, enjoying a successful first full season, and Ward himself persuaded Alan Wells and Graham Cowdrey into some mid-morning repair work. The pitch was lively but true, and it demanded a big score.

Just before lunch Peter Such, fresh (if that is the word) from setting a Championship record of 86 overs in an innings, was greeted by a huge Wells six, and after conceding 17 runs in two overs, he wandered back into the outfield somewhat reflectively.

The arrival of rain in mid-afternoon was no surprise, and it left Wells a run short of his season's sixth Championship 50. As a top player signed on a five-year contract, an objective assessment of his season so far would rate it solid but below expectations. After a 30-minute delay, however, he moved up a notch, in league with an increasingly belligerent Cowdrey and Kent steadily took control of the day.

Paul Prichard permuted with Neil Williams and Ronnie Irani, Steve Andrew and Stuart Law, but by an large they achieved balance without bite. Eventually Irani thudded Cowdrey's pad soon after the batsman had passed 50 and just before the moonrise arrived from Eastbourne at tea-time, Wells went down on one knee and smote the suffering Such for his third six and first Kent century.

Game's blueprint prompts Sussex mini-tournament plan

Round-up

Sussex have proposed a series of pre-season regional tournaments to make up for the lost number of county games under the new blueprint for cricket.

The club's chairman, Robert Marlar, and chief executive, Tony Pigott, are unhappy about the reduction of matches and

said they will put forward a proposal for a mini-regional championship during March.

"We will propose that all pre-season trips should be abandoned and that March be used to play a mini regional championship on uncovered pitches," Marlar said.

"We are doing this because we are not happy about the reduction of Championship games.

Personally I resent it greatly and when it was first announced I felt like going to war over it."

The Middlesex captain, Mark Ramprakash, was left on 99 not out when the first day of the match against Hampshire at Lord's finished early. Bad light and rain took 33 overs out of the first day and the premature end left Middlesex 212 for 3 off 71 overs.

Mike Gatting and Ramprakash added 128 for the third wicket before Gatting played a lazy shot to a long hop from Marketers Hayden and succeeded in swatting it to Robin Smith at mid-on. Gatting fell three short of his half-century while Ramprakash, who had reached his 50 off 94 balls, was in total command. But after reaching 99 in the 66th over, he was still

short of his century 18 deliveries later.

At The Oval, Mark Butcher failed to respond to the challenge of the Surrey manager, David Gilbert, to take out his frustrations on the Durham attack.

Butcher, dropped by England and disciplined by Surrey for a show of petulance at Lord's on Sunday, scored 24 before he lost his off stump to Mike Fos-

ter. Instead, it was Jason Ratcliffe who seized the opportunity to impress. Ratcliffe scored a faultless 54 not out in Surrey's 164 for 2 on a day shortened by bad light and rain to 45 overs.

Conditions seemed set fair for Butcher, who has not been able to rediscover the prolific form of last season. The acting captain, Chris Lewis, won the toss and chose to bat, and there were few

alarms as Butcher and Darren Bicknell moved to 63 from 17 overs.

Durham then struck to remove both openers in successive overs, however. Bicknell flicked at a leg-stump delivery from Melvyn Betts to give Martin Speight a catch, while with only four runs added, Butcher drove all round a swinging ball from Foster and was bowled via his pad.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship
(First day of four unless stated)

Lancashire v Warwickshire
Lancashire (4pts) are 194 for 3 in reply to a first-innings total of 139 by Warwickshire (3). Today: 11.0

(Warwickshire won toss)

Warwickshire - First Innings
D P Ooster c Gallen b Martin 8
M A Waugh lbw b Austin 13
D L Kemp c Hogg b Martin 15
A Singh lbw b Martin 15
T L Penney c Farnother b Austin 20
N M K Smith b Martin 42
D R Brown c Harvey b Martin 42
G Welch c Yates b Austin 27

Lancashire - First Innings
J E R Gallen c Ooster b Welch 22
N T Wood c Brown b Donald 4
N H Farnother c Frost b Brown 60
G D Lloyd not out 70
M E Harvey not out 13
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb14) 25
Total (for 3, 52 overs) 139

Warwickshire - First Innings
F Giles c Gallen b Martin 6
T Frost not out 6
A Donald c Hogg b Austin 1
Extras (b1, nb4) 5
Total (49.4 overs) 139

Fall: 1-8, 2-20, 3-21, 4-36, 5-44, 6-76, 7-112, 8-132, 9-132

Bowling Martin 19-5-46-6; Austin 18-4-45-4; Shadford 4-0-17-0; Gallen 8-2-30-0

Lancashire - First Innings
J E R Gallen c Ooster b Welch 22
N T Wood c Brown b Donald 4
N H Farnother c Frost b Brown 60
G D Lloyd not out 70
M E Harvey not out 13
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb14) 25
Total (for 3, 52 overs) 139

Surrey v Durham
THE FOSTERS' OVAL: Surrey are 164 for 2 in their first innings against Durham. Today: 11.0

Surrey won toss

Surrey - First Innings
D J Bicknell c Speight b Betts 23
M A Butcher b Foster 24
J D Ratcliffe not out 54

Middlesex v Hampshire
LORD'S: Middlesex (4pts) are 212 for 3 in their first innings against Hampshire (1). Today: 11.0

(Middlesex won toss)

Middlesex - First Innings
P N Westwood c Ayres b Renshaw 7
J N Kallis c Ayres b Renshaw 39
M R Ramprakash not out 99
A Sheen not out 47
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb4) 11
Total (for 3, 71 overs) 212

Fall: 1-13, 2-66, 3-184

Bowling M R Ramprakash 16-4-51-0; Renshaw 16-4-52-1; Mascarenhas 17-6-32-0; Shepherdson 12-2-42-0; Udal 2-0-5-0; Hayden 4-0-23-1

Hampshire - First Innings
S Laney, M L Hayden, G W White, R A Smith, M Veech, J P Warr, A L Penderby 10-1-10-0; Bailey 21-3-60-0; Sales 2-0-10-0

Norhampton v Worcestershire
NORTHAMPTON: Worcestershire (4pts) are 433 for 5 in their first innings against Northamptonshire (3). Today: 11.0

(Worcestershire won toss)

Worcestershire - First Innings
T M Moody lbw b Bostwell 25
W P C Weston not out 196
K R Spring not out 35
G R Haynes lbw b Bostwell 35
D A Lambethdale c Ripley b Penderby 110
V S Goldsmith not out 33
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb22) 11
Total (for 5, 109 overs) 433

Fall: 1-2, 2-35, 3-88, 4-127, 5-368

Bowling Bostwell 17-2-53-2; Bostwell 17-4-71-1; Penderby 18-3-93-1; Curran 9-1-34-0; Davies 24-4-90-0; Bailey 21-3-60-0; Sales 2-0-10-0

Norhamptonshire - First Innings
D J Roberts, R J Warren, A Rodham, R J Bailey, D J G Sales, M M Curran, A L Penderby 10-1-10-0; Bailey 21-3-60-0; Sales 2-0-10-0

Umpires B Leadbeter and G Sharp

Kent - First Innings
T R Ward lbw b Andrew 35
T Smith c Robinson b Williams 5
A P Wells not out 102
G R Cowdrey lbw b Irani 53
W J House c J A Such 2
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb2) 6
Total (for 4, 61.4 overs) 203

Fall: 1-23, 2-52, 3-190, 4-203

To bat M A Eshman, M V Fleming, P A Strong, M S Marsh, M J McGee, J B D Thompson

Bowling Williams 10-0-51-1; Irani 18-4-53-1; Andrew 9-6-18-2; S G Law 14-6-31-0; D R C Law 12-5-23-0; Such 4-1-0-27-1

Essex - First Innings
P J Prichard, D J Robinson, T P Hodgson, S G Law R C Irani, D R C Law, A P Gregory, R J Irani, R C Williams, S J W Andrew, P M Such, Umpires: J C Calderstone and P Wiley

First Test
Sri Lanka v India
(First day)

Colombo: Match draws

INDIA - First Innings
S G Law 14-6-31-0; D R C Law 12-5-23-0; Such 4-1-0-27-1

SRI LANKA - First Innings
(Overnight: 587 for 1)

To bat S Jayasuriya c Ganguly b Chauhan 340
S Mahanama lbw b Kumble 225
P de Silva c Prasad b Ganguly 26
A Ranatunga not out 88
D R M Jayawardana c Kulkarni b Ganguly 66
R S Kallitharan not out 14
W P U J C Vass not out 11
Extras (b1, b2, w2, nb14) 25
Total (for 6 in 271 overs) 952

Did not bat K R Pushpakumara, M Muralitharan, K J Silva

Fall of wickets: 2-615, 3-615, 4-790, 5-921, 6-924

Bowling Venkatesh Prasad 24-1-59-0; Kulkarni 24-7-74-0; Chauhan 17-5-27-0; Kumble 22-7-23-1; Kulkarni 70-10-135-1; Ganguly 5-0-53-2; Tendulkar 2-2-0-0; Dravid 2-0-4-0

No play yesterday
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP, Somerset v Gloucestershire; Sussex v Lancashire; Second XI Championship; Lancashire v Gloucestershire; Hampshire v Gloucestershire.

Second XI Championship
(First day of three unless stated)

Southgate: Lancashire 292 for 5 (U J Irani 88no, M J Gibson 70) v Middlesex.

Oxford: Essex 152-6 (W Rennie 62) v Surrey. Rain stopped play.

Barnville: Lancashire 274 (M J Walker 86, C D Walsh 53, C L Campbell 4-50), Durham 64 for 2.

Leicester: Lancashire 413 (Bee Proctor 4-45), Gloucestershire 59 for 3.

Sturminster Newton: Lancashire 273 (W G Khan 50, O T Parkin 6-61) and 134 for 1 (W G Khan 80 no), Glamorgan 354 (M J Powell 107).

Harrington faces hard graft

Golf

Padraig Harrington and the Spaniard Ignacio Garrido prefer to be different as they battle for Ryder Cup points at the Czech Open in Prague this week.

The Irishman, though heartened by a late invitation to next week's USPGA Championship, believes the European team will not be decided until the final counting event, the BMW International in Munich, at the end of the month. He refuses to take anything for granted.

Garrido, in contrast, believes he will now make the team, especially as he, too, has received

a late invitation to the USPGA. Harrington, who is in 11th place in the Cup table, does admit: "It's a huge advantage to go to the USPGA but it will be tiring. I'm playing the USPGA, then the European Open (in Ireland) and the BMW, which means I shall have played eight times in nine weeks."

"I'm giving myself every chance of making the team and if my Ryder Cup place was in the bag I'd take a week off. But I don't think it will be in the bag. It will go down to the wire."

Garrido, second at the Scandinavian Masters last Sunday which took him to 10th place, has a different view.

"Things seem to be going my way," he says. "I've been invited to the USPGA, I'm in good form and I don't feel nervous. I think I'll make the team now."

Though 13 of the top 20 in the table are in the Czech field there are three notable absences, Sweden's Per-Ulrich Johansson, Thomas Bjorn, of Denmark, and the Spaniard Miguel Angel Martin, currently sixth, seventh and eighth.

Johansson is resting this week. Martin has had a wrist operation, which will keep him inactive for six weeks, and Bjorn has an ankle injury. Which presents Harrington and Garrido with the opportunity to overhaul them.

Johnston is resting this week. Martin has had a wrist operation, which will keep him inactive for six weeks, and Bjorn has an ankle injury. Which presents Harrington and Garrido with the opportunity to overhaul them.

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Woods makes waves in Michigan

Golf

"I now know who the fifth Beale was," a veteran reporter said after a tightly controlled news conference with Tiger Woods on the eve of the Buick Open at Warwick Hills, Michigan.

Such is the fevered anticipation surrounding the young golfer's appearance that security has been almost doubled from past years. More than 100,000 spectators will make their way around the course between now and Sunday, the lure

Lindsay answers critics

Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of Rugby League, has insisted that the World Club Championship has been a success despite the destruction of European dreams on the field and of financial hopes off it.

Lindsay, also chairman of the Super League International Board, responded to criticism of the tournament and claimed the northern hemisphere clubs

Rugby League

would improve significantly as a result. "People who knew anything about rugby league always expected that the Australian clubs would probably achieve more than their European counterparts," he said, "but I recognise that the full extent of that advantage has surprised a great many people even within the game."

"Yet the World Club Championship will prove the vehicle for European clubs to launch their recovery programme."

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Filly hurts Duffield

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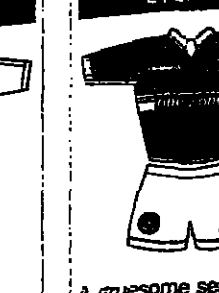
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featuring a real battle and early signs to lower team has been followed by equally unhappy players. Rejected by five managers prospective player, Everton have lost their chance.

The support impressive but fostering *disillusion* about both the team and the club. Howard Kendall can't keep residence on his feet, but so could Royce...

Steven Bickley wide man back-riding to a back-over-reliance on David Watson as some promising players. Michael Francis, Ooster and Trancy but a lack of *attitude* that those players that it. Use Nick Bar-

Duncan Ferguson
rarely perform.

Manager: Howard K.
Assistant manager:
Reservists: Colin Han
Youths: Ray Hall
Captains: Dave Watson

Inst: Steven Eric (West
John **Chris** **Grimsley** **John**
Farely **Austin** **Vidal**
Tony **James** **Thermon**
Don **Norie**
Capacity: 40,117
Ticket prices for adults:
ers: £14-£19 (non-
(concessional)
Tickets and prices for
seniors: 2-5,000 seats
£18
Season ticket prices:
(adults, £110-£185) 6
Ticket acquisition:
Credit card bookings:
800
Local sponsor: 15th

Prediction: 13th		
1	Southall	16
2	Barnes	17
3	Mitchells	18
4	Unsworth	22
5	Watson	24
6	Phelan	25
7	Suarez	26
8	Barnaby	27
9	Ferguson	28
10	Speed	30
12	Short	32
13	Gerard	33
14	Grant	35
15	Thomson	



Undercut by Barons as the Premier's minnows, and now for time. If they retain their unique while absorbing Norwegian investment they could make this year's fine season platform rather a peak.

Oyvind Leinhardt inevitably has gone with Ken Hughes as the replacement. While midfield is weaker, the defence where Chris Penn Blackwell and Neil van der Meer are mature, looks solid. Thatcher, having injured last season, is like a new signing.

Europe may

best result would be Merton Council of a new home...

Manager: Joe Kinnear
Coaches: Laurie Scahill
Steve: Mike Harford
Youth: Emla Tipton
Captain: Vinny Jones

Joe Carl Hughes (Luton)
Goal: Owynd Lushman
Goal: 23.5m, Adrian
Fulham £150,000, St
Paul £100,000
Capacity: 26,309

Ticket prices for the
posters: £12 (20
£10 (noncessors)

Tickets and prices for
the posters: £100
Season ticket prices:
£200 (adults), £80 (£5
cessors)

Ticket enquiries: 0
8841

Credit card booking
771 894

Last season: 8th
Predictions: 9th

1.....Sullivan	14
2.....Cunningham	15
3.....Kinnale	16
4.....Jones	17
5.....Blackner	18
6.....Trotter	19
7.....Hughes	20
8.....Eatts	21
9.....Eklou	22
10.....Holdsworth	23
11.....Coyte	24
12.....Perry	25
13.....	

1	Sutton	16	Strach
2	Wright	17	Parry
3	Mitchell	18	Perkinson
4	Urmston	19	Wright
5	Wright	20	O'Connor
6	Phelan	21	Allen
7	Sutton	22	Dunn
8	Wright	23	Wright
9	Ferguson	24	Wright
10	Wright	25	Law
11	Wright	26	Law
12	Wright	27	Wright
13	Wright	28	O'Leary
14	Wright	29	Wright
15	Wright	30	Wright

Manager: Joe Kirsner
Deputies: Lewis, Seaton, David
Carr
Business: Matt Harford
Vitals: Email Type
Contact: Vonda Jones

Inc Carl Hughes (Luton) £400,000
Ode Optical Leamington (Luton)
£200,000
Smy Action Newhouse
(Luton) £100,000
Stuart & Sons, Stock Rags
(Luton) £100,000
Capacity: 26,300

Ticket prices for home as-
pirations: £1.10-£2.00, £1.75-
£2.00

Tickets and prices for away as-
pirations: £2.00 available in £1.50-
£2.00. Ticket prices: £1.50-
£2.80 (Luton), £2.00-£3.00 (own
concessions)

Expectations: (121), 771
8641

Credit card bookings: (894)
771 894

Last season's rank: 8th

Predictions: 9th

1.	..Sunder	4.	..Coventry
2.	..Cunningham	5.	..Aston
3.	..Kemps	6.	..Tottenham
4.	..Bolton	7.	..Sheff Wed
5.	..Blackburn	8.	..Aber
6.	..Thames	9.	..Cardiff
7.	..Sheff Wed	10.	..Sheff
8.	..Barn	11.	..Aston
9.	..Sheff	12.	..Sheff
10.	..Bolton	13.	..Sheff
11.	..Hudders	14.	..Sheff
12.	..Sheff	15.	..Sheff
13.	..Sheff	16.	..Sheff
14.	..Sheff	17.	..Sheff
15.	..Sheff	18.	..Sheff

**Analysis by
Glenn Moore**

Team research by Daniel

Awful Ago

100

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Number of hauls	<i>P. setiferus</i> (%)	<i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> + <i>P. setiferus</i> (%)
1	~10	~5
2	~30	~10
3	~50	~15
4	~70	~18
5	~85	~20
6	~90	~20
7	~95	~20
8	~98	~20
9	~99	~20
10	~100	~20

100

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...and the

(continued)

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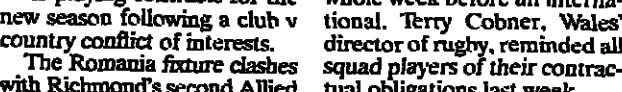
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100

In many respects Ferguson represents virtues that are being chased out of the game to its detriment. The important thing for his profession is that his management style is one only people of unsound mind would be against.

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The WRU contract requires squad members to attend training in Cardiff each Wednesday during the season and for a whole week before an interna-



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Club-by-club colour guide to the Premiership



sport

The players, prospects and prices - Page 22



Gough leaves England in a tight spot

DEREK PRINGLE
Cricket Correspondent
reports from Trent Bridge

England go into today's fifth Test match here knowing that nothing short of victory can keep their Holy Grail - of regaining the Ashes - alive. With two Tests of the series remaining, England trail Australia two matches to one. But if the clarity of their quest will help to concentrate minds and bodies over the next five days, the absence of Darren Gough, their leading wicket-taker in the series, has reduced morale at the worst possible moment. Indeed, a win over Australia now has probably

never seemed quite so difficult. Having arrived with his knee inflamed from the Headingley Test - an injury exacerbated by two recent games for Yorkshire - it did not take long yesterday for Gough to rule himself out. In fact he managed just 12 balls before pronouncing it "sore" and unlikely to last the rigours of a five-day Test match. "It's heartbreaking," said the fast bowler later, as England prepared without him for the first time in nine Tests. Lamenting his latest injury, he added: "I've already missed enough Test cricket for my whole career."

With 16 wickets so far in the series, England will badly miss his striking ability, although

Devon Malcolm, his likely replacement, bowled well earlier in the series before he was dropped. Less easy to replace though will be Gough's unfettered energy. Like others in the England side, he has his faults, though lack of effort and enthusiasm are not among them. Injury is sport's cruellest foe, for it can turn fortune on its head. Not so long ago, England had both Gough and Dominic Cork doing their bidding for them. However, when Cork became injured earlier in the season, it was noticeable that Gough thrived on his absence, especially at Edgbaston where he bowled superbly. With the Yorkshireman now missing, England will hope

one or two of the other bowlers become similarly inspired. It was a point Taylor also reinforced, pointing out the sudden improvements made by Glenn McGrath, after Australia lost two of their front line bowlers, Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming, before their last Test series in the West Indies. Indeed inspiration is the word on everyone's lips, and surely the main reason why the Hollisake brothers were selected, when perhaps county form dictated otherwise. Yesterday, it was not certain if both would play, as England, toying with the possibility of playing two spinners, had still not decided the final balance of their

attack. If both Tufnell and Croft do play, then it is probable that Ben will have to wait a while longer than Adam to make his debut. In a match where the Aussie batsmen have to be kept on a tight leash, the risk of playing him as a third seamer will be seen as too great a gamble. Mind you, if only one spinner plays, England will not only have its second-ever teenage debutant, but a fifth set of Test playing brothers as well, a feat last performed in 1957 when Peter and Dick Richardson played against the West Indies. But while the move scores highly for imagination and front, it will leave England's bowling without much variety, save for

a surfeit of seam bowlers. On a pitch which Graham Gooch described as "normally the best for batting on in England," such a uniform attack will simply be asking for trouble. In contrast to the uncertainty over their final line-up, Australia will field a side unchanged from the one which won so comfortably at Headingley. Continuity apart, they will also be bolstered - if only subconsciously - by the fact that the absence of any result will be sufficient to keep the Ashes Down Under for at least another two years.

Mark Taylor, mindful of his and his team's reputation for attacking cricket, is insistent that playing for a draw was never fur-

ther from his mind, saying that he would "be very surprised if the last two matches are drawn". As it is almost three years since Australia drew a match not affected by the weather, there is a fair chance he will be right. It is a view more or less shared by the England captain who, striving to overcome the disappointment of Gough's withdrawal, held one of his most upbeat press conferences of the series. "It is true that as the series has gone on, their confidence has got higher, while ours has been dented," Atherton said. "But confidence is a short-lived and fragile thing and if we can seize the initiative on the first day those things can change quickly. If we can win

here, I can see us being favourites to win the Ashes back, given our good record at The Oval." They are bold words, especially when you consider that to win here now, England will not only have to overcome a formidable foe - something they have managed only three times in 17 Tests against Australia at Trent Bridge - but do it without their best bowler. As Lord MacLaurin stated during the presentation of his blueprint on Tuesday: "The tougher the competition the better the game." As England pursue victory over the next five days, that assertion will surely be put to the test. Sri Lanka Test record, page 20

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: The coming man of middle-distance running announces his arrival to eclipse Morceli

El Guerrouj finds the gold groove

MIKE ROWBOTTOM
reports from Athens

Hicham El Guerrouj had warned everyone beforehand: "I am going to erase the memory of Atlanta." He was as good as his word.

The coming man in middle-distance running finally arrived last night, defeating the great Noureddine Morceli over 1500 metres to claim the world championship a year and three days after his trip to the bell had put him out of contention in the Olympic final.

As the 22-year-old Moroccan crossed the line in 3:36.63, his smile of gathering delight gave way to a look of awe as he put his hands to his face and then sank on to his knees to kiss the ground. Swiftly, his supporters arrived to drape him in the national flag and conduct him on his lap of honour. It was a routine Morceli has come to know well over the record-breaking years.

But after last night's final he was just another solitary runner mooching towards the tunnel with his hands on his hips.

The meeting between El Guerrouj and the 27-year-old Algerian over the metric mile was anticipated as keenly the metric mile of the past, the 1997 version of Overt versus Coe, or Keino versus Ryan.

After his calamity of last year, El Guerrouj made certain he was clear to run at the bell, and his surge turned the bunched field into a stretched one. Only Morceli, and Spain's 1992 Olympic champion Fermín Cacho, attempted to stay with him. The contest was over by the time the Moroccan reached the finishing straight, and while

Cacho took silver in 3:36.63, Morceli drifted out of the medals in the final 10 metres, being caught by Cacho's compatriot Reyes Estevez. It felt like the changing of the guard.

Morceli, who holds the world records for 1500m, 2000m and the mile, has had a torrid year. He arrived here for his opening heat after attending the funeral of his 23-year-old brother, Abdul Kader, who died on 26 July, having been hit by a car.

His fortunes on the track have also been troubled. After pulling up in his 1.5m two-mile challenge against Haile Gebrselassie in Hengelo on May 31, he subsequently discovered that he was suffering from anaemia. The after-effects, he claimed, had undermined his fitness, and El Guerrouj beat him over 1500m in Paris last month.

Even his appearance in yesterday's final was fraught, as he became involved in a dispute over displaying sponsor's logos.

For El Guerrouj, however, the moment had been seized. As his national anthem played, tears rolled down both his cheeks.

Haile Gebrselassie, who had dropped out of these championships and back into them at least twice in the previous two months, retained his 10,000 metres title with an unanswerable burst of speed 600 metres from home.

Covering the distance in around 83 seconds, the tiny Ethiopian put a distance of 20 metres between himself and his nearest challengers, Paul Tergat of Kenya and Morocco's Salah Hissou, recording 27min 24.58sec.

Gebrselassie, who had been very unwilling to run on a

track which he considered too hard, ran in shoes last night, but that did not appear to compromise his tip-toe style drastically.

Hissou, from whom Gebrselassie recovered the world 10,000m record last month, was unable to remain in contention once the Ethiopian made his

move. He must have wished the International Amateur Athletic Federation had not put such pressure on Gebrselassie to make an appearance.

Wilson Kipketer, seeking a \$100,000 bonus here for breaking Seb Coe's 16-year-old 800m record, reached tomorrow's final with an ease which drew mur-

mers of admiration. At the bell, he cruised past the field on the outside like a Ferrari overtaking before slowing to win his semi-final in 1:46.14. The IAAF's sponsors might as well get the money ready now.

A quarter of an hour later, Wilson Kipketer also won the 3,000m steeplechase title, out-

sprinting his fellow Kenyan, the defending champion Moses Kiptanui, to win in 8min 5.54sec.

Phenomenal as the 800m man is, he has not taken up the steeplechase yet - this was Wilson Boit Kipketer, no relation, and making his first appearance in the World Championships. Results, photograph page 23



Hicham El Guerrouj, of Morocco, celebrates winning the 1500 metres final at the World Athletics Championships in Athens last night

Photograph: Gary Hershorn/Reuters

Gunnell's career in jeopardy once again

Sally Gunnell's career, an increasingly frail thing in the last three years, is in question once again following her withdrawal from the World Championships because of a calf strain, writes Mike Rowbottom.

The 31-year-old British team captain scratched from yesterday's second round of the 400 metres hurdles because of a calf strain she had picked up in her opening heat. The decision was made after the failure of intensive physiotherapy to get the leg to a point where she could rely on it.

"I don't know whether this is the end," she said. "I want to make a decision at the end of the season. But the last thing I wanted was to pull up injured here. I'm not going to go home. I aim to get some more treatment and maybe do some races at the end of the season."

Gunnell, who was unable to defend her title at the last World Championships because of an Achilles tendon injury, has a traumatic memory of the Olympics, when she was carried in tears from the track after failing to complete her semi-final. She prefers to leave the global championship scene with dignity.

The announcement of her withdrawal from last night's semi-finals caused a murmur of disappointment around the stadium.

The woman who has held Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth titles still commands a place of respect in the world of athletics.

There was happier news for Britain's sole defending champion, Jonathan Edwards. Having come to Athens with doubts over his fitness - a heel injury for five weeks - he qualified for tomorrow's triple jump final with his first attempt - 17.28m. A safe landing after what he described as "a step in the dark".

"I feel good," he said. "Everything is OK". Tomorrow will show whether he is right.

Dalton Grant carried Britain's hopes in the high jump final following the failure of the injured Olympic bronze medalist, Steve Smith, to qualify. He did so with characteristic courage, not to mention eccentricity. Grant, whose arrival at the championships was delayed because of food poisoning, rationed his effort with a gambler's skill.

He set a world record of sorts in the final as he passed every height before clearing at 2.32m - higher than anyone else has managed at a first attempt. Indeed, that unofficial record stood to himself following his clearance of 2.31m at the 1991 World Championships, where

he was carrying a foot injury.

On that occasion Grant finished fourth on countback. This time he could not get as close, failing to clear his next height of 2.35m to end up fourth again - a position he shared with Norway's European champion, Steinar Hoen.

The gold went to Cuba's Javier Sotomayor, free of the injuries which compromised his challenges at the last World Championships and last summer's Olympics, who cleared 2.37m.

The 110m hurdles semi-finals were a mixed experience for Britain. Tony Jarrett, the British champion, failed to qualify after making a poor start and hitting his first hurdle. But Colin Jackson, who has won only one race all season, continues to show the kind of form he has not exhibited since 1994, when he added the Commonwealth and European titles to his world gold.

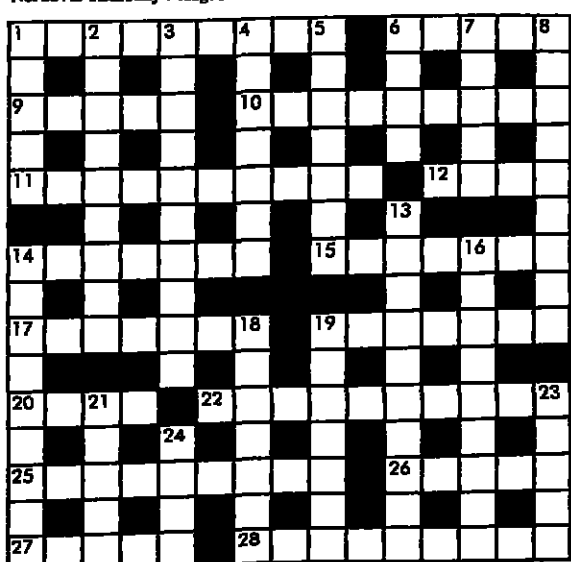
Jackson beat the defending champion, Allen Johnson of the United States, to reach today's final as fastest qualifier in 13.24sec. It would be something indeed as the last surviving competitor of Britain's world champion trio of 1993 were he to win another medal after three years in the wilderness. But it looks as though that is what is going to happen.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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By Sparius

Wednesday's solution



CASHIER VIOLATION
PUFFY SHOFFLOOR
VELINEER
CANALONIA GUSTO
A Y
TOPPER NUISANCE
EVEN R
DUMGAREBS DIVOT
O D E A E
VICHY DISTILLER
E L M R I S D S
CHINAWARE LEASE
O M D W N E D L
TABLETS TOTTERY

- ACROSS
- 1 Merit award accepted by poor crofter in scarf (9)
 - 6 Story involving two sovereigns in northern French town (5)
 - 9 See 10 to be somewhat imprecise? (5)
 - 10 Poems Lieutenant's penned, one appearing in *The Magazine*? (8)
 - 11 Overseas capital Wellington's associated with? (10)
 - 12 Composer bouncing back from stinging rebuff (4)
 - 14 Having to advertise for second time, I'm wiped out (7)
 - 15 Run things at a profit? (7)
 - 17 To bring about purification, is inclined to enter the church (7)
 - 19 Bouncing cheque written by General around mid-October produces resentment (7)
 - 20 American article printed in Kentucky given backing (4)

- DOWN
- 1 Municipal council leader, one linked with Australian state (5)
 - 2 Amplifier girl's put on a piano - thing for sharpening instrument (9)
 - 3 Getting in deep, like Queen (5-5)
 - 4 Rural community, given time, not against agricultural work (7)
 - 5 Expressions of dissatisfaction doctors often encounter (10)
 - 25 Conductor chosen for appointment came by bicycle (9)
 - 26 Greek bird making beastly noise (5)
 - 27 Mother getting child to become a member of secret society (5)
 - 28 Washed up by sea yet dry a matter of hours ago? (9)

- TROOPS PUT ON UNIFORM?
- Right (7)
 - Schedule is held by junior officer (4)
 - Free pair of spectacles offered in higher education establishment (5)
 - Myrtle perhaps about to be involved in subtle form of revenge (9)
 - Square in Pembroke, maybe, with lots of stars? (10)
 - Elephant possibly suffering cramp running around park (9)
 - 16 Lady wonder, e.g., about circle in forest (9)
 - 18 Saving made by firm beset by money problem (7)
 - 19 Humble groom holds record (7)
 - 21 Messages figures, reportedly, to meet requirements (5)
 - 23 Girl's witty remark (5)
 - 24 Shock for star, taken apart by tabloid leader (4)

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